STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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FINAL WISH

Gathering to celebrate steam enthusiast

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Historic links to street names revealed

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RUBBISH PILE FLATS SCHEME

Report by Richard Guttridge

FRUSTRATED residents blighted by a towering pile of rubbish could see their misery end as plans were revealed for 94 flats on the site.

Developers have submitted the housing plans for the land in Moor Street, Brierley Hill. The mountain of waste at the former Refuse Derived Fuel Ltd industrial fuel yard once reached 40ft and has plagued residents for six years.

The rubbish mounts up

Company director Robert McNaughton was jailed in December 2013 for failing to remove it. Neighbours have been demanding a clean-up since 2009.

The jail sentence appeared to have brought an end to the saga, but, more than a year later, a 19ft-high pile still remains in Moor Street.

Now developer J and V Kelly Ltd has submitted the flats proposal.

Replenish

The agent acting on its behalf, Marson Rathbone Taylor Architects, said the development would rid the area of an 'appalling site' and 'replenish' the area.

A design and access statement submitted with the plans said: "The site has become under utilised allowing the waste pile to gradually become larger, causing a nuisance and health hazard to the site and local area.

"Due to the misuse of the land, the pile of rubbish has caused disturbances to the local people and started a campaign to remove the rubbish.

"The appalling site has become a huge problem and needs to be removed, the Environmental Agency is now involved and the problem is acknowledged by the people responsible for the site."

Ward councillor Rachel Harris, who has led the campaign to clear the waste pile, said people living near the site had suffered for too long but was 'optimistic' the plan would bring the residents' nightmare to an end.

She said: "From the views that people have given us, they want the land along Moor Street be a mixed use of housing and industry.

"This is a good sign as far as I'm concerned because it shows somebody is listening to what people want. We do need good-quality housing in the area.

"It has gone on for far too long. It has been there so long vegetation has grown on it, and it is costing the council money having to monitor the site."

On your marks for Action Heart run

Action Heart's Melissa Lowke with deputy mayor Councillor Steve Waltho and race organiser Paul Davies-Hale

RUNNERS will be lining up to help a charity that supports people with heart conditions when they take part in a five-mile run.

A 500-strong field of entrants is anticipated to take part in this year's Action Heart race on Sunday, which will be raising money for the Action Heart centre at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

Among competitors is Deputy Mayor of Dudley Councillor Steve Waltho, for the tenth time.

Race organiser Paul Davies-Hale said the annual run would be following a route starting out from the hospital site and ending back at the hospital. Mayor Councillor Margaret Aston will officially start the run at 9.30am, and walkers can take part from 9am.

Mr Davies-Hale added that this year's race, which aims to raise £10,000, would be extra special because it marks the 25th anniversary.

Stewards

Many of the participants will be staff at the hospital, and the course will be manned by 40 stewards who have received help from Action Heart.

Fundraisers from the charity have also taken part in the London Marathon, while a number of other events are held in aid of the charity including a 5km run at Baggeridge Country Park.

Action Heart provides the largest cardiac rehabilitation programme in the country. Money raised pays for heart rate monitors and gym equipment.

Mr Davies-Hale said it also provides support to patients with heart conditions who have been referred to the charity by GPs. At any one time, 700 people receive help from Action Heart.

For more information on the run, visit www.actionheartrunning.com

New care centre to bring in jobs boost

THIRTY jobs will be created when an urgent care centre opens at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital in April.

The new service, accessed via the emergency department, will replace the existing walk-in centre at Holly Hall and is expected to treat more than 160,000 patients a year. It is hoped the centre will help to reduce pressure on A&E.

Malling Health has been awarded the five-year £18million contract to run the 24/7 service.

Some 30 clinical and non-clinical workers will move to the new base. New staff will be recruited to take to total up to 60.

Dr Steve Mann, from Dudley CCG said: "The walk-in centre at Holly Hall will close on March 31. From this date, all patients who think they have an emergency medical problem should go to the urgent care centre.

"We are confident this will offer a real improvement in care for all patients."

More than 3,000 people responded to a consultation on the closure of the walk-in centre, while hundreds of people signed a petition calling for it to remain open.

Dudley CCG says the urgent care service will be better as it will open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Talk on top town figure

A TWO-hour workshop is taking place about a Black Country figure who helped spark the industrial revolution.

Former Dudley Council archaeology officer John Hemmingway will be giving a talk on Dudley Dudley on March 21 at Dudley Archives and Local History Centre in Tipton Road.

The event, which runs from 11am, costs £5 to take part in and places need to be booked in advance from Simon Bradley on 01384 812368.

Initiative a Sunday best for retailers

MORE than 70 shops and market stalls opened in Dudley on Sunday in the wake of damaging losses from an English Defence League protest.

Up to 2,500 visitors dropped into the town centre for the special fun day.

It was organised by Dudley Council to give the town a boost. Many shops had closed the previous Saturday while 600 people from the far right group walked through the town.

Dudley ambassador Nikki Cheung, who helped organise the event, said 75 businesses opened for the fun day, including 25 that would not normally open on a Sunday.

She said: "I am so pleased. We had no idea when we were setting up this initiative how well supported it will be."

There were activities for children, including a funfair, balloon modelling, treasure trail and face painting and Black Country Radio set up a stage for live music.

There were market stalls and the town's museum welcomed visitors.

Alan Caswell, who opened to show support for the council's initiative, said: "It isn't a matter of how much we make, it is more about seeing all the people in Dudley visiting the town centre and enjoying themselves."

Record votes for honours

AN awards scheme honouring unsung community heroes in Dudley has received a record response.

Some 167 nominations have been submitted for the the first six categories of Mayor's Civic Awards – the highest in its 12 years.

Nominations for those categories has now closed and the winners will be announced in March but people can still vote for the Mayor's Award – before February 27 at www.dudley.gov.uk/civicawards

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Cab app Uber arrives in West Midlands

IT'S the new way to hail a cab and it's all done with the touch of a button on a smartphone — controversial taxi company Uber has arrived in Birmingham.

The operation sees customers download an app, which allows them to order a car directly from the nearest driver and get details of the estimated waiting time and journey cost.

There are no telephone calls as everything is done through the app in moments.

GPS is used to put passengers in touch with the closest drivers to the pick-up location.

The second city has become the fourth in the UK to be targeted by the American firm which now operates in more than 50 countries.

The app works out the cost of journeys and cab drivers say it is the same as using a taxi meter, which only black cabs are legally entitled to use.

But Uber hasn't been welcomed everywhere. Thousands of cabbies in London brought the capital to a standstill last summer as they protested against the smartphone app.

Uber has also faced protests from other taxi firms in the past over its registration as a car-sharing business, meaning it does not face the same legislation and checks as taxis.

The company was banned in New Delhi last year over rape allegations against one of its drivers. It has since added a panic button and tracking features to its taxi hailing app in India.

It launched for customers in Birmingham and Solihull last week.

Decision sees taxi fares frozen for a 13th year

TAXI fares in the Dudley borough will be frozen for a 13th year running after a council agreed to freeze licensing charges.

Shaz Saleem, chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, had warned that cab companies may have had to pass on any extra cost to their customers if a proposed raise in licence fees went ahead.

But last week Dudley Council's taxis committee rejected the rate rise of between two and five per cent.

However, the freeze in licensing fees will mean the council will be subsidising the taxi service by £3,000 a year.

Following the meeting, Mr Saleem said: "This decision means we won't be increasing the fares for our customers.

"For over 12 years now we have kept our fees the same in Dudley.

Struggling

"One hundred per cent of the firms have not been charging double over the Christmas period because we acknowledge that our customers have been struggling.

"A lot of our customers have had the same wage for the last couple of years and the fact that Dudley Council has not put its fees up all means we don't have to increase our fees as well to cover our costs."

He added: "I would like to say a big thank you first of all to the members who have supported the association. I would like to thank Dudley Council, in my view, for making history. I can't remember a time when fees have actually been frozen and we welcome the move.

"I think it is important that Dudley Council and Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association work together and today is a step towards that."

Blue plaque honour for ELO musician

A BLUE plaque honouring Electric Light Orchestra's Kelly Groucutt was set to be given the nod this week.

The family of the bass player and occasional singer asked for the English Heritage plaque to be placed on the house in Gough Road, Coseley, where he grew up.

The request was being earmarked for approval by Councillor Hilary Bills, Dudley Council's cabinet member for environment and culture, ahead of a meeting yesterday (Wednesday).

It will be the sixth blue plaque installed in Dudley and the first to be placed on a privately-owned property. The property's current owners have backed the request.

Groucutt, who lived in Coseley from 1945-67, died in 2009 from a heart attack. The Groucutt family lived in Gough Road from 1937-92. Kelly was born on September 8 1945.

Under the usual criteria, the person being honoured should have died a minimum of 15 years prior to an application being made. But council officials say the guidelines provide for exceptional circumstances – such as when an individual connected with the borough has an international reputation.

Birthday surprise for 100th

Joyce Brookes has a kiss from her great-great-grandson Samuel Bridgens-Shepherd, aged 4

MORE than 100 friends and family gathered to celebrate the 100th birthday of Joyce Brookes from Dudley with a surprise party.

Mrs Brookes was born just a year after the outbreak of the First World War and has lived in the borough all her life.

She was joined at her celebration by the Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Margaret Aston, and Dudley North MP Ian Austin to celebrate the milestone. Son Harry said his mother was overwhelmed by the response.

Mr Brookes, aged 75, said: "It was a fantastic turnout. My mother was so pleased and actually got quite emotional when she walked in the door. It was a complete surprise. She is still very well, despite a bit of arthritis. She is very sharp."

Councillor Aston and Mr Austin both brought bouquets of flowers.

Mrs Brookes wed husband Harry in 1937. He died in 1985. They had two children, Harry and his sister June, now 77.

Mrs Brookes has two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and two great great-grandchildren.

Rock star plant in support of JB's book

LED Zeppelin icon Robert Plant is backing the release of a book about Dudley's famous JB's rock club.

Plant is following the likes of Jasper Carrott and ELO frontman Bev Bevan in getting snapped with a copy of JB's: The Story of Dudley's Legendary Live Music Venue, which was released in December.

Author Geoff Tristram, who performed at the club himself in the 70s, said Plant was more than happy to be photographed with the glossy paperback after one of the book's contributors, Roy Williams, a former sound engineer of Plant's, put him in touch.

Other stars pictured with the book include Ruby Turner and Ricky Cool.

It details the club's history from its humble beginnings at Dudley FC's former home stadium, to showcasing some of the biggest bands of recent times, including The Police, Dire Straits and The Pretenders.

"The people that spent their youth in JB's have spread out across the world but are still interested in remembering the history of the club," said Mr Tristram.

"We want everybody and anybody who remembers JB's and buys this book to send us their picture."

Tales of the Wonder Stuff

THE Wonder Stuff frontman Miles Hunt will share his rock 'n' roll tales at a book reading in Wolverhampton.

The indie legend, from Stourbridge, will be reading from his book, The Wonder Stuff Diaries 86-89 at the Slade Rooms from 8pm on April 5.

Hunt will play a handful of songs at the 'intimate and personal' reading as well as taking questions from the audience.

Tickets are £16.50, from Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or online at www.wolvescivic.co.uk

Meet the brewer

A STOURBRIDGE pub will feature beers from a new Halesowen brewery from March 2 to 8. There will also be a chance to meet the brewer from Fixed Wheel Brewery at the Chequers Inn, a JD Wetherspoons pub, in High Street on Monday, March 2 at 7pm.

Suspended sentence for man in bar attack

A THUG who smashed a bar stool over a man's head in a Coseley pub has avoided an immediate jail term.

Recorder Ciaran Rankin told Lloyd Gould he had escaped prison 'by the skin of his teeth' following the attack in the Painters Arms.

Prosecuting, Mr Edward Soulsby told Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that Gould, aged 38, of Summerhill Road, was out with his father on August 24 when a man asked him to buy him a drink. He refused and the victim called him names. Gould then launched the attack after the man argued with his father.

CCTV footage showed him sending the victim sprawling at the bar with a blow to the head. A volley of kicks and punches followed, then Gould smashed a bar stool over his head. The victim suffered black eyes, cuts and swelling to his face.

Mr Richard Franck, defending, said Gould was ashamed and apologetic.

Gould admitted assault occasioning actual bodily harm. He was jailed for eight months, suspended for two years with two years supervision and a three month curfew. He must pay £500 compensation and complete 100 hours of unpaid work.

Councillors' fees to rise

COUNCILLORS in Dudley borough have received a 2.2 per cent rise in their allowances – despite the authority having to make £27 million of cuts.

Councillors have been given the rise to keep pace with the increase in wages for council workers.

The basic allowance will increase from £9,393 to approximately £9,600.

UKIP councillors have rejected the offer, saying the money should be spent on front line services instead.

Councillor Paul Brothwood described the hike as an "insult to the taxpayers of Dudley borough."

Prayer hall 'no'

A PLAN to create a prayer hall and community centre for Muslims in Old Hill has been refused by councillors over a lack of parking spaces. Concerns were raised over the building in Halesowen Road as just 30 parking spaces would have been created.

Tributes to respected politician and governor

Harry Nottingham

TRIBUTES have been paid to a former teacher, councillor, magistrate and school governor who has died aged 81.

Harry Nottingham had a long career representing Wordsley and Kingswinford South on Dudley Council, during which he acted as a mentor for some of the current generation of politicians, including Dudley South MP Chris Kelly.

Mr Kelly said: "Harry was a great gentleman and a true friend. He was a skilled chairman of Dudley South Conservative Association and an assiduous, liked and respected Wordsley councillor. I valued enormously his sage advice and wisdom. He will be greatly missed by many.

"Harry was in his working life a local headteacher who set countless scores of young adults on their course in life having made a big impression on their education. He was a truly great man."

Mr Nottingham, who lived in Lawnswood Avenue, Wordsley, had two spells as a councillor, the first when he represented Kingswinford South between 1991 and 1995 and the second as councillor for Wordsley between 2006 and 2010. He was also a governor of Crestwood School in Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, between 1991 and 2012.

Councillor Patrick Harley, leader of the Conservative group at the council, said: "I always remember in my younger days he was well liked on the Conservative group and if you needed advice you could always go to him. He was always the perfect gentleman and would try to find a solution to your problems."

Tony Bowles, headteacher at Crestwood School, said: "Harry was a popular and well respected governor. He oversaw many changes in the school including the building of a new sports hall to improve the facilities for our students. He was a very hard-working governor and always very supportive."

The leader of Dudley Council, councillor Pete Lowe said: "Whilst we did not always see eye to eye, I always found him to be the most courteous individual. It is a real sad day for public services that people like Harry are no longer with us."

History dig could delay start of work on car park

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL dig will need to take place before a £2.5 million car park can be built in Dudley town centre.

Work on the 250-space multi-storey in Tower Street must wait for the investigations to be carried out. Dudley Council says it wants to examine the site because it has been occupied since mediaeval times.

The site earmarked for the car park is next to the Grade II listed Baylies Hall and opposite Dudley College's Dudley Evolve campus.

The plan aims to attract more people to the town centre by increasing the amount of parking.

Designs for the car park will be submitted to Dudley Council in March, depending on what the archaeologists unearth after work on the dig starts this week.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "It's very important that we carry out full investigations of the land before any works start on the site.

"We have appointed archaeologists to carry out appropriate investigations in case there are any substantial finds from the mediaeval period.

"I hope any discoveries won't adversely affect our time-line for getting the work started on this much-needed car park."

Archaeologists have also have been at Dudley Market where work is taking place on a £6.7m scheme. Experts uncovered shells of oysters, which were a popular fast food 400 years ago, and dozens of bottles of shoe polish dating back to the 1700s were discovered.

It is hoped the car park will prove popular for shoppers visiting the new-look market.

New stalls, canopies and lighting will help breathe new life into the market as part of the overhaul.

Council aims to reduce energy bills

DUDLEY Council will spend £140,000 on cost-cutting schemes aimed at slashing its energy and water bills.

Swimming pool covers for the borough's leisure centres, new heating systems and energy efficient lighting are among the measures planned by the authority.

The council is also considering additional insulation at its buildings.

An 'energy manager' has been appointed with the task of cutting its annual £7m bill for the 800 properties it owns across the borough.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, said the money spent on the schemes would be recouped through the savings in the future.

Further consideration is being given to the level of insulation in all major council buildings, along with existing heating systems and controls.

The initial £140,000 investment in schemes of this nature will be recovered through the savings they will create each year, she said.

In the pink for next showbiz production

Pink Productions are about to start auditions at The Mill Theatre in Sedgley as Grace Tolley, aged 11, points the way

PERFORMERS are needed to take part in a new show featuring songs and dance numbers from musicals.

Pink Productions, whose former members include One Direction star Liam Payne, will stage Blockbuster at Sedgley's Mill Theatre in June. The group is on the search for both children and adults to perform in the show.

Open auditions will be held at Holy Trinity Church Hall, in Farrington Road, Lanesfield, Wolverhampton, on Sunday. They will be split into two sessions, under-13s from 1pm to 2pm and 13-and-over 2.30pm to 4pm.

The show itself will have six separate segments featuring songs from the musicals Wicked, Walking on Sunshine, Aladdin, Barnum, Fame and Newsies.

Rehearsals for the show, will be held at the church hall every Sunday between 1pm and 6pm.

Company director and choreographer Jodie Richards said between 80 and 100 performers usually took part in the shows.

"We are looking for both children and adults to take part in Blockbuster, which will feature the best bits from some of the biggest musicals," she said.

"People auditioning do not need to have previous experience of performing in shows. But they must be willing to commit the time needed to rehearse."

Miss Richards said anyone who wanted more information could call her on 07763 847811. Otherwise attend on the day.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mosque appeal returns to court

THE latest chapter in the legal battle over plans for a new mosque in Dudley is taking place with an appeal to be heard in London this week

Dudley Muslim Association and Dudley Council were due at the Court of Appeal for a two-day hearing starting on Tuesday.

The council launched a legal bid to reclaim land in Hall Street, which had been earmarked for a new multi-million pound mosque. The association lost its initial appeal against the bid but it taking its case to the Court of Appeal.

Curry cash helps the Eagles soar

MONEY has been raised for a football club to buy life-saving equipment thanks to charity curry nights. Wall Heath's Alam International Restaurant, in Albion Parade, organised two curry evenings to help bring in vital funds for Kewford Eagles FC.

Hundreds of young footballers play for the club's 45 teams, aged from six to 18. A total of £1,634 was raised to buy a defibrillator for home ground Eagle Park, in Swindon Road, Wall Heath.

Singer's illness postpones gig

CHINA In Your Hands hit-makers T'Paul had to cancel their concert at Bilston's Robin 2 on Saturday (February 14) after lead singer Carol Decker was taken ill.

The show will be rescheduled for a future date and ticket holders can call the box office on 01902 401211 for further information. Tickets can be kept for the rescheduled date or refunded.

Dates announced for beer festival

THE annual Black Country Beer Festival at Lye Cricket Club will take place from August 13 to 15.

The number of ales, cider and perries available will increase from 80 to 100.

Organisers from the club and Lye brewery Sadler's Ales have selected the Royal British Legion as the festival charity.

Rowing course

PEOPLE can learn how to row in a course run by Dudley Water Sports Centre. A six-week course starts on March 22, from 10am to noon at Lodge Farm Reservoir, Highbridge Road, Netherton.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

GREAT coincidences of our time. Newly-extended limit for sales of high-interest pensioner bonds: May 2015. Date of next General Election: May 2015

YOU sow the wind, you reap the whirlwind. The fires that consumed a Jordanian pilot are as nothing compared to the inferno of white-hot bomb blasts that Jordan is now unleashing against Islamic State. Whoever coined the phrase "revenge is a dish best enjoyed cold" had never piloted an F-16.

WE all have our individual stagger-threshold, the point at which we are staggered by things. Martin Wheatley, chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, seems to have a very low one. He told the Commons Treasury Select Committee: "I think it's quite clear that the number of scandals that we've seen in financial services, particularly in banks, has been staggering." Mr Wheatley is staggered only because he seems to believe that bankers are fine upstanding people who enter the moneylending profession in order to spread happiness and prosperity among their fellow men. If, on the other hand, you believe a significant number of bankers are a shower of shysters whose only interest is getting as rich as possible as fast as possible, you will not be quite so staggered. When the Crown Prosecution Service pursues crooked bankers as eagerly as it chases benefits cheats, things may change. Not before.

TERMS for our time. A self-build project in London invites would-be home owners to put in 500 hours of manual labour as part of their deposit on the property. It is called sweat equity.

THEY still don't get it, do they? Rachel Reeves, Labour's shadow work and pensions secretary, was banging on about the benefits of a full month's paternity leave. She declared: "Good employers like Asda, National Grid and Citibank are already giving more than the statutory paternity leave." She referred repeatedly to "good employers." After a while you twigged that when Ms Reeves says "good employers" what she actually means is "big employers." Reeves worked as an economist at the Bank of England which may make her an expert on big business but she clearly hasn't a clue about the nightmarish pressures facing small firms. Ninety-six per cent of all businesses in Britain employ fewer than 10 people and if they despair at trying to juggle the shifts to accommodate yet more statutory leave, it's because they're small, not bad.

YOU read it here first. In December this column carried words of warning from a reader worried about the new generation of smart TVs with voice recognition and an internal microphone. The technology allows the seriously idle to change channel simply by bellowing "Sky" at the telly. My reader asked: "If the microphone is active, what else might be transmitted from one's living room or even bedroom?" Good question. The answer came this week when it emerged that Samsung's privacy policy includes this advice for buyers using the voice-command software: "If your spoken words include personal or other sensitive information, that information will be among the data captured and transmitted to a third party." It may be 31 years late but doesn't it sound just like Nineteen Eighty-Four?

THE Baftas, the Golden Globes and the Academy Awards are three occasions when time stands still. Women stars who demand to be known as actors at all other times (on the grounds that the term actress is outdated, sexist and demeaning) dream of slipping into their most revealing frocks and being acclaimed as best actress, best supporting actress, best actress in a TV drama, etc, etc. Hypocrisy, thy name is Oscar Globes-Bafta.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

'Hamburger island' plan for junction

MORE than 450 people took part in a second consultation over plans to overhaul the notoriously congested Birchley Island at Oldbury, said council bosses as they revealed the process had cost hundreds of pounds.

Sandwell Council leader, Councillor Darren Cooper, told officers to conduct a new inquiry with the public after plans for the 'hamburger island' plan failed to win the backing of the majority of the public.

In the latest consultation, 463 people took part with 83 per cent voting in favour of the hamburger island over a scheme for a traffic light controlled junction similar to Burnt Tree on the Sandwell and Dudley border.

Council officials said they spent a further £400 on the second consultation having already spent £554 for the initial public consultation.

The authority spent around £600,000 drawing up the business cases for the four options initially, of which the traffic light junction and the 'hamburger island' were the final two schemes shortlisted.

The £12.7 million hamburger island is so called because the roundabout is effectively split in two with the Wolverhampton Road reconstructed so that it would pass through the current island in both directions next to the electricity sub-station.

There will also be four lanes from the M5 junctionto and from Birchley Island and traffic signals from the Churchbridge approach. The plan is due to be ratified by the council's cabinet in coming weeks.

Company fined after worker suffers injuries

A STEEL processing firm has been fined £12,000 after a worker suffered horrific injuries when his arm was trapped in a machine.

Matthew Collins was cleaning rotating rollers at Cooper and Jackson Ltd in Brierley Hill when his arm was pulled between them.

A colleague attempted to free him by reversing the rollers but when he pressed the reverse button Mr Collins was instead dragged in further, up to his shoulder.

The 42-year-old, from Stourbridge, suffered a punctured lung as well as fractures to five ribs, his collarbone, shoulder blade and elbow. He also suffered serious burns to his chest, caused by the rollers coming into contact with his skin.

He was in hospital for more than a month and was later re-admitted following an infection.

Counselling

Mr Collins has been unable to work since and is having counselling for post-traumatic stress.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation into the incident, which happened on March 20, 2014, found the company had not carried out a risk assessment for the cleaning of the machine, which presses steel. It also found staff had not been trained in how to clean the machine safely.

Magistrates in Dudley were told the company, based on the Pedmore Road Industrial Estate, failed to

By Richard Guttridge

ensure the safety of its employees.

Paul Cooper, prosecuting on behalf of the HSE, said it was known by some workers at the factory that the machine's reverse button was not working.

The court heard the bosses at Cooper and Jackson had complied fully with the investigation and had since ensured the factory met relevant safety standards.

Andrew Roach, defending, told magistrates: "There is now a safe system in place to ensure no such accident happens again.

"My client accepts the system in place was not what it should have been.

"It is the hope of both the company and Mr Collins that he will be able to return to work."

The firm pleaded guilty to breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The company must also pay £1,181 in court costs.

Metal album revamp goes viral

Dudley musician Daryl Gardner has recorded his version of Metallica album St Anger

A MUSICIAN has gone viral on the internet with his attempt to breathe new life into an album by one of rock's top bands.

Daryl Gardner, 25, from Kingswinford, was joined by fellow musicians Chris Dando and Dave Cox to record their version of St Anger, the influential 2003 album by heavy metal monsters Metallica.

Daryl's version of the album has gained more than 700,000 views on YouTube in under a month. Daryl, who played all the instruments, said: "I was only around 12 years old when I heard the album for the first time. It opened up the band to me, something I have benefited greatly from musically.

"I am not a drummer so I had to learn all the tracks through air drumming on my way to work. Dave did a great job on the vocals, people have commented on how much he sounds like James Hetfield from the band. I have heard through a friend of the band's sound engineer that the group themselves have heard and were impressed."

Bingo with difference

A BINGO night with a difference will be staged by a charity to bring in cash for people with sight loss in the region.

Beacon, formerly the Beacon Centre for the Blind, will hold the Rock n Roll Bingo event on Friday, February 27 from 7pm.

It will feature a musical version of the game, featuring classic rock songs from the 60s to the present day.

Tickets are priced £5 covering four games and there will be prizes for the winners.

Call 01902 880111 to book or email fundraising@beacon4blind.co.uk

£385 cost of failing to clean up after dog

A DOG walker has been handed a £385 court bill after failing to clean up after his pet

Mark Stevens was spotted by Dudley Council officers allowing his dog to foul on a grassed area in Shirley Road, Dudley in July last year. He failed to clean up after his pet and was issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice but failed to pay.

The 53-year-old, of Crowmeole, Shrewsbury, ignored a reminder letter and also failed to turn up to Dudley magistrates court. He was found guilty in his absence.

Magistrates ordered him to pay a £70 fine as well as £295 costs and a £20 victim support charge.

Message

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "This sends out a very clear message, that if people fail to clear up after their pets we will do everything in our power to prosecute them.

"In this case, a costly visit to court could have been avoided if he had simply cleaned up after his dog, or at least paid the fixed penalty notice, or answered the reminder letter.

"We work very hard with people to keep this borough clean and tidy."

Ambulance hours are lost

MORE than 200 hours a day are being lost for ambulances which could be out on the roads attending emergencies in the West Midlands.

The current number of patients being looked after at the region's hospitals is 'extraordinary', says Anthony Marsh, chief executive of the trust which runs West Midlands Ambulance Service.

A report said ambulances have been losing up to 200 hours a day due to waiting to drop patients off at overworked A&E units.

He said: "This is the busiest I have ever experienced."

Car overturns

A CAR flipped onto its roof in a crash in Sedgley.

The driver was not seriously hurt after the crash which closed Gospel End Road for over an hour after the incident at 10.15pm on February 11.

Police arrived to find the silver Hyundai on its roof.

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Pub plan lodged at derelict club site

A FORMER club building in Quarry Bank is to be turned into a pub under plans to bring the derelict and boarded up site back into use.

Proposals have been submitted to Dudley Council for a change of use at the former Liberal club, in High Street, which have been backed by officers.

Members of the council's planning committee will decide on the scheme at a meeting on February 24.

Despite the change being recommended for approval, some nearby residents have objected to the plan.

People are concerned the pub will cause more noise and nuisance and have an impact on neighbouring homes.

They also say it will be out of character for the High Street and they are concerned about the hours of operation.

But there has also been an e-mail of support sent to the council saying the scheme would convert unoccupied premises and put a pub back into the community of Quarry Bank.

In a report to the committee, officers say the building is in the heart of the town where it would be expected to find a range of shops, takeaways, homes and pubs.

Police crack down on yobs

YOBS who have been throwing eggs at houses and causing a nuisance to residents are being targeted as part of a police crackdown on anti-social behaviour.

Youths have been causing damage to properties in Earl Street in Kingswinford. They have also harassed residents by persistently knocking on doors before running away.

Officers have visited people who have been affected while patrols are being increased. Police say they will contact secondary schools in the area in the hope of identifying the youths.

Plans opposed

PLANS for a Co-Op in the car park of The Old Court House Hotel, Kingswinford. are being opposed. Residents and landlady Coral Smith are against the plans, by New River Retail and Marstons Brewery, on the grounds of traffic chaos and fears over the hotel's future.

Zoo restoration work ahead of schedule

Peter Suddock in the bear ravine

RESTORATION of an iconic animal enclosure at Dudley Zoo dating back to the 1930s is months ahead of schedule and is already nearing completion.

Finishing touches are being made to the bear ravine, one of the Castle Hill attraction's historic Tecton buildings, and Kiosk One, with the bulk of the project now finished. Work was originally due for completion nearer to Easter.

The timescale means workers have been able to move on to another of the site's Tecton structures, the sealion enclosure.

The pair of symmetrical pools, which sit in the original moat of Dudley Castle, are being thoroughly cleaned in preparation for repairs to the sealion houses.

Construction supervisor Carlo Diponio is working with specialist concrete repairer Martin Baker and apprentices Aaron Gelder and Nathan Beaman on the project.

The repair programme will take around 12 weeks to complete – with a full week needed to clean the left side of the Sealion Pool.

The zoo presently has only one sealion, 26-year-old Cleo. Each side of the pool will be worked on individually so she can use one while the other is being worked on. Officials said they would look at increasing the number of sealions at the attraction following completion of the restoration. Bosses also plan to begin work on the old reptiliary.

Spokesman Jill Hitchman said: "It is literally only the final touches which are being added to the Bear Ravine and Kiosk One now.

"We are still planning to open the structure at Easter, which has always been the intention. We are months ahead of schedule. This allows us to now begin on other projects."

Road rage thug is given suspended jail sentence

A DRIVER launched a savage road rage attack on a Dudley lawyer and his brother.

Aaron Hayes saw red when the other motorist accidentally blocked his path at The Inhedge, Dudley, at around 2.30pm on July 25, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 32-year-old jammed his hand on the horn and hurled abuse at Dudley solicitor Mr Tahir Mahmood who then stalled his car 'in panic' while trying to move out of the way.

Mr Philip Beardwell, prosecuting, explained that this gave Hayes the opportunity to leap out of his saloon car and race to the other vehicle, where he punched Mr Mahmood through the open side window.

The attack switched to the stunned victim's brother Mr Shahaid Khaliq when he got out of the passenger door to help his injured sibling, said the prosecutor. Hayes punched Mr Khaliq so savagely in the face that his cheek was cut so badly that the man will be scarred for life.

Traced

The defendant drove away but was traced through the registration number of his red Vauxhall Vectra.

Hayes from Coombe Avenue, Weymouth admitted assault and assault causing actual bodily harm and was given a six month jail term suspended under supervision for a year. He was also handed a two month night time curfew and ordered to pay £1,350 costs and compensation.

Recorder Ciaran Rankin told him: "You assaulted two men through sheer aggression, band temper and impatience. Your previous good character and early guilty plea have kept you out of prison."

Company in drive to take on care staff

FIFTY jobs are to be created thanks to a Dudley-based care firm's expansion into Wolverhampton.

Carewatch, which provides home care to the elderly, has launched a recruitment drive to take on care and support staff.

Shelley Eggison, manager at Carewatch Black Country, said: "Quality care and support workers are key to our organisation's services, but we need to recruit more if we are to meet the challenges of the UK's ageing population.

"We're looking for compassionate people to join our team of professionals, enabling our customers to retain their independence, dignity and security, in their own home."

Three recruitment days have been organised. They take place from March 11 to 13 at Carewatch Black Country's base at First Floor DBH, Castlemill, Dudley, from 10am to 5pm. Refreshments will be available.

Visit carewatch.co.uk, call Tracey Price on 0121 2277748 or turn up at one of the events.

Sweet job for chocolatiers of tomorrow

They got a golden ticket — young chocolate apprentices Abigail Rowley and Martin Raybould, both from Dudley

TWO trainees are savouring the sweet taste of success as the first chocolate apprentices at the home of Cadbury.

Abigail Rowley and Martin Raybould, apprentice bakers with University College Birmingham (UCB), work at Cadbury-owner Mondelez International's global home for chocolate research and development at the Bournville site.

The chocolate-maker has previously recruited engineering and maintenance apprentices but this is the first time post-16 trainees have been taken on in Bournville's innovation centre, where teams work behind closed doors for brands such as Cadbury Dairy Milk, Milka and Toblerone.

Abigail and Martin, both 19 and from Dudley, are working as junior technicians in the pilot plant production team.

Abigail said: "The apprenticeship with Mondelez is an amazing opportunity.

"I have always had a creative streak and want to come up with new ideas while I work here."

The apprentices receive a salary of £12,000 and are assigned their own mentors at Bournville.

The two-year apprenticeships are part of a new partnership between Mondelez and UCB.

Abigail and Martin were selected having completed level 2 diplomas in professional bakery at UCB and are honing their skills as chocolatiers and confectioners.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Law firm's £30k boost for charity

FUNDRAISERS at a Black Country law firm have raised almost £30,000 for The Prince's Trust.

Higgs & Sons has been raising money for the charity during the past two years with events ranging from a quiz to all-stars football match against Aston Villa.

Tim Jones of the Brierley Hill-based firm said: "We have been absolutely delighted to have been part of The Prince's Trust in supporting young people within the Dudley area."

The law firm's chosen charity for 2015 is the Alzheimer's Society.

Author's talk on local inspiration

AN AUTHOR will be giving a talk at the Black Country Living Museum on Wednesday, February 25. Geoffrey Greenhough will be the guest at the 7.30pm event hosted by The Black Country Society.

Mr Greenhough will discuss his latest book Two Trees, a novel set on the Western Front and in the Black Country during the Great War. It is based on the experiences of his grandfather's family from Wednesbury. Visitors are welcome. Admission £1.50.

Over-50s social group launched

A CHARITY is launching a new weekly social group.

The Beacon Monday Club will be held at the Sedgley centre, Charles Haywood Drive, and will offer a chance for over-50s to meet new people.

The club will run from 2-4pm every week, except Bank Holidays, from March 2. Contact Pete Moodie on 01902 880111 or pmoodie@beacon4blind.co.uk for more details.

Cannabis growing charge is denied

A MAN has denied producing cannabis on a Stourport industrial estate.

Gary Richards, aged 51, of Irving Close, Gornal, pleaded not guilty to the class B drug charge, involving 38 plants, before Kidderminster magistrates.

He was bailed to appear at Worcester crown court on March 2 with two co-accused.

Car fire after crash

FIRE crews from Brierley Hill tackled a car blaze following an accident in the early hours of Sunday in Netherton. It happened in Pear Tree Lane at 1.15am. It burst into flames following a collision with a wall.

ADVERTISEMENT

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

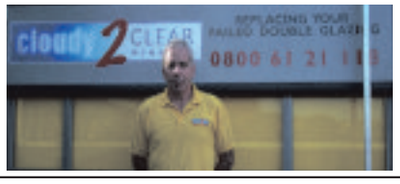
It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!



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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews

AFTER 60 years gathering metaphorical dust, the sequel to Harper Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird will finally reach our bookshelves this summer.

No doubt English teachers across the country will be salivating with excitement, but I don't think I will be queuing to grab the first copy.

Actually, To Kill a Mockingbird, a tale of injustice and prejudice in 1930s Alabama, taught me all I know about English literature, although probably not in the way that my teachers intended.

One can only assume that those who drew up the English literature syllabus at the time thought that including a 20th century novel from across the Atlantic probably made them seem a bit trendy and edgy.

You know, 'never mind all that stuffy old Dickens, we're down with the kids and tackling real-life social issues, daddy oh!' Or words to that effect.

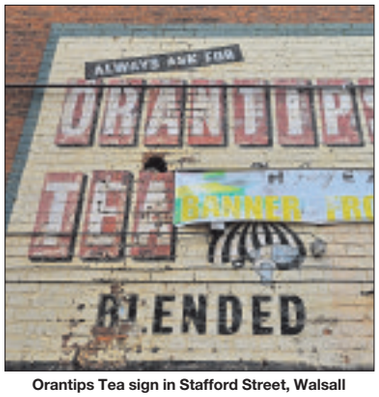
Anyway, having read the book from cover to cover, we were tasked with writing a review, outlining our thoughts on the work. And truculent teenager that I was, I said I didn't like it. Something along the lines that it lacked nuance, and seemed to be more about pushing a personal, idealogical message with the subtlety of a sledgehammer, rather than about entertaining the reader. In other words, it was a bit like EastEnders.

Oh, my teacher's reaction, I can still remember it now. The exasperation coupled with disbelief. How could I, a teenage boy, take it upon myself to criticise one of the great authors of our time? Perhaps looking back, almost three decades later, he probably had a bit of a point. But I was 15, and not given to considered opinion.

Anyway, diligent so-and-so that I was, I did as instructed, and re-wrote the review stating precisely what I was supposed to say, something about the 'mockingbird motif', whatever that was, and how beautifully drawn the characters were. "It is undoubtedly an excellent novel," was my conclusion if I remember rightly.

And it did the trick, top marks. So when it came to the next book on the syllabus, which was an even more worthy – in other words, dull – tome about apartheid in South Africa, I knew exactly what to do. I read about a third of the book: something about 'all roads lead to Johannesburg' was all I remember, which is pretty much the sort of information you can get from a road atlas. And having managed 80 or so pages, I then wrote an essay about what an excellent piece of work it was, trotting out all the establishment lines I had been directed to by my teachers. Bingo! Top marks again.

It proved to be a winning formula, which could be adapted for anything from Ted Hughes to Shakespeare. Don't have an opinion, just trot out what the academics want to hear.



Orantips Tea sign in Stafford Street, Walsall

A Harper's Ale sign in Goodall Street, Bilston

An old E&S advert in Ridding Lane, Wednesbury

Signs serve as a window into past

The businesses may have long gone but they have left behind their mark, as ADAM BURLING explains

THEY hark back to a bygone era – the cheery signs, hand-painted on brickwork, extolling the virtues of everything from boots to beer.

Many advertise businesses that have long since closed down, with some of these so-called ghost signs dating back to Victorian and Edwardian times.

Some are protected and will remain for generations to come. Others have been left to fade away on gables of home and corner shops. For many passers-by these signs are just part of the landscapes – with little thought given to their significance or historical links – for others a fascinating window into the past.

Clues

Staffordshire and the Black Country are home to scores of these signs – with many featuring in a new online national archive of more than 1,000 images – set up as people delve for clues as to their origins.

One of the most noticeable in the Black Country is an advertisement for Hanson's Mild Ale on a bridge over Birmingham New Road in Dudley. Passed by thousands of drivers each day, it is in a prime location that would cost firms a small fortune to rent out nowadays.

And it even has the slogan 'A strong link with the past' penned above - a phrase which has taken on a different meaning since the firm closed in 1991, despite producing one of the Black Country's most famous milds for more than 100 years.

Overlooking Wolverhampton's ring road is a well-preserved smart black and white sign for shoemakers James Baker & Sons Ltd, on the side of the firm's old factory in Cleveland Road. The empty building is now up for let but is Grade II listed, meaning it is classed as being of 'national importance'.

Also in the city the old W Evans ironmongers sign in School Street, Wolverhampton is still preserved in brickwork, despite the shop itself being long gone.

Mystery surrounds the origins of the Ale & Porter Stores sign above a disused unit in Upper Villiers Street, Wolverhampton. Residents believe that was the original name of the corner shop, but online forums have failed to find out any more.

Sometimes the signs do not always fit in with the business that has subsequently taken over the shop - such as The Tool Market in Great Bridge High Street that sits below an advert for Twinings Tea featuring the Little Miss Barber character.

A little girl wearing a frilly, striped dress, Little Miss Barber was also seen on adverts for Orantips Tea – including one in Stafford Street, Walsall on the side of the 'HiRez' design and print shop. The historical importance of the sign was used in an application to add the building to the 'list of local architectural and historic interest' in Walsall in 2005/6, although it has since been partially covered by a modern advertising board.

Little Miss Barber also appears on painted advertisements for Barber's and Twining teas in Crankhall Lane, Wednesbury and Shaftmoor Lane, Birmingham.

Elsewhere in Walsall, a Harper's Bilston Noted Ales & Stout advertisement can be seen over the Hole in the Wall fabric store in Goodall Street. It was for RA Harper's Hill Park Brewery of Bilston, which was acquired by Eley's Brewery of Stafford in 1924 and closed in 1928 when Eley's was taken over by Butler's of Wolverhampton.

Nip-a-Kofs, black cough sweets were a popular item of stock at grocery shop H Hopley's – which was opened in 1947 in Wolverhampton Road, Cannock by Hubert Hopley.

Secret

Made to a secret recipe they were a must have for Black Country workers as it offered a solution to the throat irritation from the dust in the pits.

Hangers enamel paint is another long-defunct brand that can still be seen in Walsall Road, West Bromwich. The advert urges people to buy it from Hopkins, which, it is believed, was once a hardware store in the area.

The Express & Star has an advert above the old Television and Video Centre in Ridding Lane, Wednesbury. Promoting the Wednesbury & District edition, it has become a well-known sight.

Sam, an advertising worker, became fascinated with the historic logos he saw above old buildings, so started a blog and within weeks he was inundated by people who had seen similar signs on their streets.

The Hanson's Mild Ale bridge over the Birmingham New Road, near Dudley

A sign for cough sweets Nip-A-Kofs in Wolverhampton Road, Cannock

WEEK IN POLITICS

with Daniel Wainwright

FOR a few months at least it'll feel like the world revolves around us. If you haven't worked it out by now, then in the words of Ron Burgundy, you're 'kind of a big deal'.

The reason? You live in the West Midlands. And that means there's a very good chance you're either in a 'key' marginal seat or very close to one.

All the good news being unveiled by the coalition is targeted towards places like this. The Tories are desperate for you to hear that their 'long term economic plan' is working.

Labour, meanwhile, wants to tell you that the growth we've been experiencing is benefiting only the few and that too many of the new jobs are rather miserable, zero hours ones.

For the Conservatives, now is the time to be pulling rabbits from hats. Education secretary Nicky Morgan started her week in Walsall, touring Rivers Primary Academy, one of the schools across the country in line for a complete rebuild.

The visit was official government business and the local Labour MP David Winnick was informed. He was also told there would be no political candidate there. It turned out, however, that his Conservative opponent, the keen Douglas Hansen Luke, was there and sat with Mrs Morgan during her Press interviews.

Mr Winnick was so annoyed he tabled questions in Parliament only to be told that government officials would not 'be expected to be involved in arrangements with Prospective Parliamentary Candidates'.

There's certainly nothing to suggest anyone did anything they should not have done.

But incumbency has its advantages. In 2010 Gordon Brown launched the Labour manifesto from the then brand spanking new Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

He was asked if he was doing anything wrong using an NHS facility for a political launch, only to point out that at that stage the building was still held by a construction firm and had yet to be passed on to the NHS.

There are some positive things that come out at times like this as well. George Osborne, for example, wants to put £5.2 billion into the transport network in the Midlands – widening motorways, electrifying rail lines and more.

He wants to tackle the deficit we have in productivity – we have 16 per cent of the population but only 13 per cent of the economic output.

And there will be new powers on skills devolved from Westminster to local authorities, potentially to the looming combined authority for the Black Country and Birmingham. It is dangled before us as an incentive to stick with the Conservatives.

All most can do is hope the wafer thin majorities of some of the seats in the Black Country result in promises that will be kept whoever wins the election.

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27th March	5 days	**Falmouth** Membly Hall Hotel, 3 stars, 4 excursions and admission inc	£299
3rd April	4 days	**Weston Super Mare** York Hotel, 3 stars, excursions and admission inc	£129
10th April	3 days	**Sidmouth** The Bedford Hotel, 3 stars, 2 excursions included	£179
13th April	5 days	**Bournemouth** Cumberland Hotel, 3 stars, 4 excursions inc	£279
13th April	5 days	**Isle of Wight** Trouville Hotel, 3 stars, 3 excursions included	£279
24th April	5 days	**Scarborough,** Royal Hotel, 3 stars (packed with excursions)	£259
27th April	5 days	**Eastbourne,** Landsdowne Hotel (packed with excursions)	£279

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Don't blame the Baby Boomers again

IF it is a good thing to live longer, then why are we always being told that everything that goes wrong with this country is because of the ageing population?

Take the NHS, apparently we are the people in A&E causing all of their problems. This is just not true. All ages sometimes need this service but many of us of a certain age only visit when really necessary. We grew up with the knowledge that we were lucky to have a free service and did not abuse it. Unfortunately, most people today think they are entitled to everything going.

We are told that our pension is a benefit. Rubbish. We have contributed from a young age to the wealth of this country and are entitled to claim our money back. Should we need hospital care, our pension is stopped, not sure how we pay regular bills? If we do not pay our council tax, there will be a nice warm cell with a TV and three meals a day awaiting us. Baby Boomers changed this country in the 60s and if we all joined together we could do it again.

S BELL
Woodsetton

Mastering skills at an early age

THE other Sunday I heard a member of the government say that they wanted all pupils in the country to be able to do their 12 times table and write a story by the time they were 11. Is this not going back nearly three quarters of a century?

In order to pass the exam to go to the grammar school I needed to have mastered these skills, as did all of my fellow classmates. With regard to the tables most of my friends and myself had this ability at about eight or nine.

The person speaking about these plans/ideas used the word education. Schools, colleges and even universities are places of teaching and learning.

Exams seem have in the past been dumbed down and assignments make it easier to pass a course as information can be obtained from the internet and adjusted slightly.

Why not change the title of Minister for Education to, the Minister for Teaching And Learning?.

D WINTERBORN
Brierley Hill

Double trouble for traders and shoppers

IT'S good to see that one of the main roads through Dudley has been reopened and common sense prevailed at last.

But the problem with shopping in Dudley is more down to greedy councils that want double bubble payments, from both shoppers paying car park charges to park near the shops and charging business rates to shop owners as a enterprise tax for trying to run a business and employ people.

Online shopping is good for online companies as it costs the online companies practically nothing for would be shoppers to browse their web sites, car boot sales only have to pay a pittance rent to the farmer for the use of a empty field, most large stores have free parking like the Merry Hill Centre to attract customers in.

But traditional shops and markets in areas like Dudley centre have a vast range of expenses, like business rates, staff, lights, rents, insurances, etc, to pay for, as the saying goes, 'on a Monday morning'.

So what's needed is for the council to introduce a validated parking system so that if a customer actually buys something from a traditional shop or market trader, thus helping to keep the high street open, that customer gets a ticket validated at the shop or stall for free car parking, thus creating a level playing field. Simples.

G E FANTHOM
Swindon

Explain rules over parking

I FEEL I must write after seeing another batch of cars opposite Russell's Hall Hospital having parking tickets put on their windows.

When visiting the hospital, locally or from outside the area, people are thinking more about times of appointments or visiting times and do not notice those little yellow lines on the kerbs which means no parking whatsoever – even with a disability badge.

To come out of the hospital, with goodness knows what on one's mind to discover a fine of £60 must be very upsetting.

I suggest the highways department put up a notice explaining the rules of the parking, and stop using someone's lack of understanding to make money so easily.

DEREK WESTON
Barnett Close
Kingswinford

Dog DNA idea doesn't add up

IN response to J Adams of Rowley Regis, given that Dudley Council needs to save £57m over the next three years, I doubt very much they will be investing in 'Poo Prints' DNA technology.

Firstly, owners will need to agree to have DNA taken from their pet at a cost to the council of approximately £25 each, then the matching service costs £40 approximately each.

As Dudley Council's fixed penalty notice for dog fouling is currently £50, the maths just don't add up!

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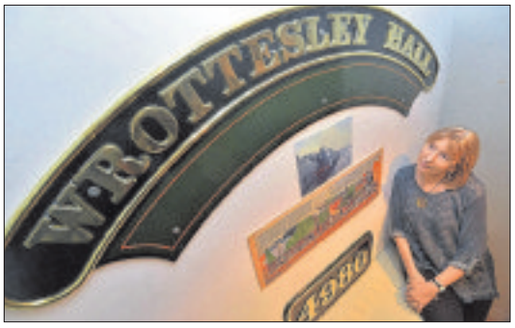

Curator/manager Helen Steatham and a name plaque from a train

Looking back at entrance to Wolverhampton's old High Level station

Locomotive built by LNWR pictured at Bushbury Sheds

Volunteer Reece Jones, 22, with a model made in 1891 to illustrate a point during a court case on emissions

Display backtracks on railways' colourful past

BITTER disputes, a fatal accident and the unstoppable growth of industry – Wolverhampton's railways have a colourful past.

And now the untold stories of the city's network are being revealed in a new exhibition.

The event at Bantock House Museum looks at the origin of railways in Wolverhampton and the important role they have played in the city's development.

A range of artefacts, documents and information are displayed in the exhibition, with recordings of steam trains providing the soundtrack. The exhibits were loaned to the museum by railway historians Simon Dewey, Mervyn Srodzinsky and Ned Williams.

Steam trains were built in Wolverhampton at the Stafford Road Locomotive Works near Dunstall, which opened in 1849 and where the new 2-2-2 express single locomotives were created in 1859. In 1864 a new superintendent joined the works and developed a new way of working by which new parts were added to old locomotives – which became known as the 'Wolverhampton style.'

MEMORY LANE

By Jamie Brassington

This is just one of the fascinating stories told through the exhibition, which also charts the history of bitter disputes on the lines over years.

Importance

The importance of the line led to the so-called 'railway battles' – two disputes between the Shrewsbury & Birmingham Railway (SBR) and the London & North Western Railway (LNWR) over agreements to use the Stour Valley line through to the high level station in Wolverhampton.

The first battle took place in 1850 when workmen from the rival companies confronted each other and the mayor, policeman and the military armed with bayonets had to intervene.

The second battle followed a year later which took place just south of Wolverhampton's current station.

An SBR train arrived in Wolverhampton around 9am and departed shortly after. It didn't get far though as the LNWR had blocked the line with two locomotives.The firm had also derailed another locomotive and removed parts of track.

Both sets of workmen confronted each other and the SBR train tried to push the LNWR train down the line but to no avail. The mayor, police and military again had to intervene.

Other historic events covered included a crash at the Portobello junction in 1899 in which two railway workers died.

Artefacts on show include a model steam engine – built in 1891 to defend a court case relating to emissions of sparks, and a plaque from a train named after Wrottesley Hall in Wolverhampton.

The exhibition, called One The Right Tracks, ends on May 10.

A locomotive headlamp forms part of the On the Right Tracks exhibition at the Bantock House Museum

Crackdown near school targets speeding drivers

Eva Massey, aged seven, with PCSO Jim Keeley and Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, near Dingle Primary

PUPILS and police joined forces to help clamp down on drivers speeding along a busy main road near a school.

Youngsters from Dingle Community Primary, Madeley Road, Kingswinford, were shown how to use a speed gun by officers before setting out to monitor traffic along Rangeways Road.

Around 20 Year Three pupils, accompanied by school staff, police and councillors, spent 45 minutes checking motorists' speed. The youngsters all got the chance to use the speed gun and the experience will now form part of a project on speed they are working on.

No motorists were caught flouting the 30mph limit during the 45 minutes. But a monitoring session held earlier in the day along Lawnswood Wood, in Wordsley, clocked 10 motorists flouting the limit – with the fastest recorded at 43mph.

Pupils from Belle Vue School took part in the exercise as part of a speed watch initiative set to up to cut speeds.

Vehicle registration numbers were noted down and the owners will be sent a letter warning them not to exceed the speed limit in future. The motorists will not be fined on this occasion.

Councillor Derrick Hemingsley, who launched the initiative along with police, said: "The children really enjoyed taking part in the monitoring session and it also played a vital role in getting motorists to think about the speeds they are driving on roads in the area."

Dingle School headteacher Joy Wheeler added: "Road safety awareness is important for children and adults, whether they are pedestrians or the drivers of vehicles."

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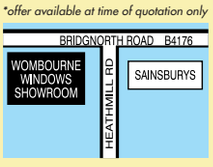

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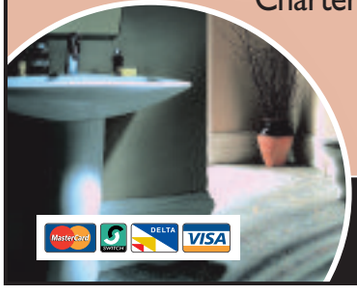

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Steam enthusiasts in farewell to engineer Len

Len's widow June Crane from Sedgley and daughter Brigitte Brown from Wombourne at the museum farewell event

HE was a self-confessed steam fanatic so it was appropriate that a celebration of Len Crane's life was held at his spiritual home, The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Around 500 attended the event alongside a dozen traction engine, following his funeral at Gornal Crematorium. Len had died in hospital after a long illness on January 5.

His wife, Jane, 74, said: "Len would have enjoyed every minute of it. It was a wonderful day and a fantastic way of celebrating Len's life."

Born in Goole, Yorkshire, Len's family moved to West Bromwich and he attended George Salter School before a scholarship to art school

He had a 12-year career in motorbike racing which saw him crowned British Motocross Scramble Champion in 1966 and 1967. He was also a tool maker at Great Bridge Foundry.

Len restored seven steam engines and was the main force behind several popular events, including the Black Country Living Museum's steam gathering.

Len Crane working on a steam engine

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Deaf pupils failing to hit benchmark

ALMOST two-thirds of deaf children in the West Midlands have left secondary school having failed to hit national GCSE benchmarks.

The figures, released by the Department for Education, show 36 per cent of non-deaf pupils fail to hit the same targets.

The National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) called the gap 'disturbing'. It said that local authorities in England had reported a continued drop in the numbers of qualified Teachers of the Deaf.

This was particularly concerning given that the numbers of deaf children in England had risen to over 40,600 this year.

Commenting on the West Midlands figures, Susan Daniels, CEO at NDCS, said: "Deafness is not a learning disability so having a widening gap in GCSE attainment is simply unacceptable.

"It's crucial that the Government takes action to clarify how local authorities will be properly held to account for failing deaf children."

Aerial views over the vast Wychbury Fields housing development taking shape in Hagley

A view from the skies as development takes shape

THIS birds-eye view shows how a huge development of 175 homes is rising from the ground in Hagley.

The first showrooms have been built but passers-by can already see the foundations in place for the next properties set for completion at the 30-acre site.

The homes have been designed around a 'village green' concept to fit in with the surrounding area.

But the scale of the scheme, near the A456 Kidderminster Road roundabout, has concerned residents living nearby who fear it will put extra strain on village services such as the school and medical practice.

There are also concerns about an increase in traffic around the site.

Developer Cala Homes says the scheme, named Wychbury Fields, is proving popular with potential buyers with just seven of 17 properties left for purchase in phase one.

Around 170 people attended an open event to view the showrooms last weekend. Bosses said the development of two, three, four and five-bedroom homes had been designed to be in keeping with existing traditional architecture in Hagley.

As part of the project, Cala Homes will contribute £800,000 towards education in the area and £85,000 towards improvements at Hagley Surgery to help both cope with more residents, while £1 million was spent on the Kidderminster Road roundabout.

Outline permission was granted by Bromsgrove District Council, despite objections from Hagley parish council, before the detailed proposals were approved in September 2013.

Phenomenal demand at Landmark apartments

WORK is on track on a multi-million pound project to transform a former office block into apartments.

More than two-thirds of the 181 luxury apartments at The Landmark – formerly Point North offices – at the Waterfront have been snapped up.

One of the penthouse suites has been bought by Wolverhampton Wanderers legend Steve Bull.

By Charlie Benton

Most of the work inside the building has been completed. Electrical and sewage supplies have been connected to each apartment and now work will begin on partitioning each home.

Work began in July last year. The work is being carried out by developers Seven Capital and contractors Colmore Tang.

Sales director Andy Foote said phase one of the apartment sales was completed with phase two due to complete at the end of the month.

Target

Phase three will begin in March with the last third of apartments being sold off with a 10 per cent price increase.

Mr Foote said: "Work is going very well and we are well on track to complete by November, which has always been our target completion date.

"The major part of the works was the engineering work, such as sewage and electrics, but that has all been finished and now we will focus on finishing the apartments."

Mr Foote said there had been around 2,000 enquiries, many regarding rental opportunities.

"We have had many rental enquiries but currently we are only selling apartments to buy," he said. "Apartments will be available to rent from November. It will be a very popular spot in Dudley.

"The price will increase by 10 per cent in the third phase and we expect all the apartments to be gone by May, so anyone thinking of buying, now is definitely the time to do it."

The total resale value of the properties will be around £18 million with prices starting at £79,000 for a one-bedroom apartment.

A third of the apartments were bought before the first phase had even completed, which Seven Capital's managing director Phil Carlin described as 'phenomenal'.

The seven-storey former office block will consist of 136 one-bed flats, 37 two-bed and eight studios including six rooftop penthouse apartments.

Council tax rise to fund children in care

COUNCILLORS have agreed to a tax rise in Wyre Forest, Hagley and Clent to fund a multi-million investment for children in care.

Worcestershire Country Council leaders tabled a 1.94 per cent council tax increase, just below the two per cent threshold needed to trigger a referendum.

Officials say the authority is looking to make £23.8 million of cuts needed following a reduction in funding from central government.

The council tax increase will raise £4 million to be spent directly on supporting children under local authority care due to a rise in demand.

The council tax increase would see the bill for an average Band D household rise by about £20 to £1,079 per year.

County council leader Councillor Adrian Hardman said despite the increase it was still among the lowest rates in the country.

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Police funds to be cut by £1m

NEARLY £1 million will be cut from the coming year's West Mercia policing budget.

A budget of more than £204m for West Mercia Police has been approved for 2015/16 by the police and crime panel, which will accompany an increase in its council tax precept.

The force, which needs to save around £30m from its budget by 2020, covers Wyre Forest, Hagley and Clent.

The financial proposals from Police & Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore were passed by the panel at a recent meeting.

The total figure is almost £1m lower than 2014/15, despite the force's Government grant next year being reduced by almost £6m. Mr Longmore said the extra money will be used on programmes to prevent and reduce crime.

Manufacturer smashes £3.2m sales barrier as demand rises

A SPECIALIST Stourbridge manufacturer has smashing the £3.2m sales barrier in just six years.

Advanced Process Solutions has seen demand for its turnkey liquid handling solutions increase rapidly as the food and beverage sector look to meet new legislation and secure greater efficiencies.

The company employs 32 people between its Titan Works facility and customer sites across the UK. Its ability to offer a one-stop service for pipework and fabrication, pump valves, mechanical, pneumatic, electrical and process engineering contributed to it recently completing a new installation for one of the industry leaders in the baking industry.

Sales director Adam Williams said: "We have completed installations for major plant bakeries and independents and believe this is where our core business still remains. However, we are also keen to make inroads into new sectors as our experience and services automatically lend themselves to dairies, pharmaceutical firms and breweries.

"We're currently recruiting a new sales manager to target new clients and hope to add an extra £1m to turnover."

APS has taken on an extra 10 staff over the last 12 months and has invested more than £150,000 on equipment at its Stourbridge factory.

Sales director Adam Williams

£95k charges for fire calls

FIRE service bosses in the West Midlands are on course to have charged £95,000 in a year for call-outs to non-emergencies.

These include stuck lifts and people being locked out of their homes.

The service is looking to increase their share of council tax by nearly two per cent.

Bosses argue they had to bring in the charges to try to deter people from calling them to time-consuming incidents that divert them from serious emergencies.

People calling for non-emergencies in the West Midlands face a charge of £412.80 per hour for every appliance or specialist vehicle sent. Other common incidents include animal rescues, clearance of debris and the removal of flood water.

£20m to transform derelict railway line

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed with the light railway plans

A STRETCH of derelict railway track could be transformed for use by light trains.

The trains would reconnect Dudley to the national rail network, linking the old town centre train station at Castle Hill with Dudley Port station.

Dudley Council is backing the scheme. Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, said: "This fantastic project will help link people in Dudley with the rest of the country while bringing people into the town."

The £20 million project is part of a partnership between the council and Warwick Manufacturing Group, which is keen to use Dudley's disused rail lines to test new light rail technology. It could create around 45 jobs at the outset with possibly hundreds more in future.

Bids will be made to the Government's Regional Growth Fund and Europe to fund the creation of an innovation centre at the old Dudley train station site on council land at the bottom of Castle Hill.

One line will be used for testing new vehicles, while the other will be for passengers.

Victorian Society's conservation award

THE Victorian Society has launched a new conservation award for the best work carried out to Victorian and Edwardian buildings in the West Midlands.

It is hoped the award will help draw attention to the high quality conservation work done by architects and other groups across the region.

Nominations can be submitted via the society's website until December with the winner announced in February 2016 at the group's AGM.

Entries will be judged on the care taken to retain the building's original fabric, conservation of fragile aspects and careful adaption to meet current needs for re-use of the building.

A shortlist of the nominations will be released in January 2016. The winner will receive a 15 inch bronze disc recording their name and the year for display on or in the building and a certificate.

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Steam enthusiasts in farewell to engineer Len

Len's widow June Crane from Sedgley and daughter Brigitte Brown from Wombourne at the museum farewell event

HE was a self-confessed steam fanatic so it was appropriate that a celebration of Len Crane's life was held at his spiritual home, The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley.

Around 500 attended the event alongside a dozen traction engine, following his funeral at Gornal Crematorium. Len had died in hospital after a long illness on January 5.

His wife, Jane, 74, said: "Len would have enjoyed every minute of it. It was a wonderful day and a fantastic way of celebrating Len's life."

Born in Goole, Yorkshire, Len's family moved to West Bromwich and he attended George Salter School before a scholarship to art school

He had a 12-year career in motorbike racing which saw him crowned British Motocross Scramble Champion in 1966 and 1967. He was also a tool maker at Great Bridge Foundry.

Len restored seven steam engines and was the main force behind several popular events, including the Black Country Living Museum's steam gathering.

Len Crane working on a steam engine

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Boss in undisclosed deal to buy out US upholstery firm

AN office furniture manufacturer from Dudley has snapped up a US upholstery firm in a takeover deal thought to be worth several million pounds.

The move will give Boss Design the ability to make and distribute its furniture in America, where the market is six times bigger than in the UK.

It has acquired the 50-year-old Jack Cartwright firm, which has an 80,000 sq ft manufacturing facility in North Carolina. The price of the deal is not being revealed.

It follows the recent opening of the Boss Design showroom in Dubai where the company is winning work in the expanding Middle Eastern office market.

Boss Design founder and chairman Brian Murray said: "Having already successfully traded with the USA for several years, the acquisition of the Jack Cartwright brand now presents us with the perfect opportunity to fully take advantage of established routes to market in the USA and to launch the Boss Design product portfolio to a lucrative sector which is currently six times bigger than that in the UK."

Boss has factories in Dudley and on the Pensnett estate in Kingswinford. The company, founded in 1983, employs more than 200 people and has annual turnover in excess of £30 million.

The Jack Cartwright business provides bespoke upholstery for commercial interiors across the USA. As well as continuing to manufacture this successful brand, the acquisition will now enable Boss Design to manufacture and distribute its own brands to the US market.

An upholsterer covers a seat at Boss Design Ltd in Boss Drive, Dudley

Hours reviewed as visitor numbers fall

OPENING hours at a museum dedicated to Willenhall's lock making heritage are to be reviewed following a dip in visitor numbers.

The number of people touring the Grade II listed Locksmith's House fell overall last year, despite sell-out crowds for one-off events held there.

Around 700 visitors called into the centre, in New Road last year.

Operated by Dudley's Black Country Living Museum, the lock museum is open for bookings only and pulled in about 800 visitors in 2013.

Bosses are now considering whether to hold extra events at holiday times to attract more families to the venue.

Abby Bird, of the Black Country Living Museum, said: "The Locksmith's House is a wonderful and unique place.

"We may change opening days a little this year to focus opening times when people are most likely to be on holiday. We will always open this much-loved museum as often as we can manage."

New factory for modular homes will create jobs

A HOUSEBUILDER is to open a factory making 'modular' homes in the heart of the Black Country.

The Mar Modular factory in Coseley will build for Mar City which has developments in the West Midlands, London and the South East.

It is already recruiting for at least 20 staff while Mar Modular is looking for people with experience in the building industry as well as unskilled staff who it will train.

By John Corser

Posts available include assembly workers, electricians and warehouse and maintenance staff.

Mar City says that the modular process – whereby sections of the homes are prefabricated then put together on site – will enable it to build homes three times faster than by existing building methods.

Profit

Mr City spokesman John Bick said it had not yet been confirmed where in Coseley the factory would be located but it would create more than 20 jobs.

The company has built up a land bank of around 5,000 plots with a gross development value of approximately £1 billion.

Last year Mar City launched its new modular-built apartments in London and modular-built houses in the Midlands.

It is in discussions with a number of parties about potential joint venture new build developments. Mar City's current production capability with its exclusive manufacturing partner will allow the group to build up to 1,000 modular homes a year. The factory will enable it to augment this production capacity.

Tony Ryan, chief executive of Mar City, said: "We now have a strong pipeline where we are in discussions with a number of potential joint venture partners and we are also developing plans to increase our home building capacity through the development of our own production facilities."

The company is currently building homes in Cranford Street, Smethwick; Alexandra Road, Tipton; Leamore, Walsall and Birmingham Road, Lichfield.

It plans to build more than 700 homes on the Eco Park site at Bean Road, Coseley and also has proposals for 248 at Hall Green Road, West Bromwich, 211 at Darkhouse Lane, Coseley and 38 at Mill Street, Great Bridge.

The Bean Road, Coseley development is on a shortlist of the 29 areas to become one of England's first 10 housing zones outside London.

Students make voices heard in competition

EIGHT teams of students displayed their public speaking skills in the Youth Speaks contest.

The Rotary Club of Stourbridge sponsored the heat at King Edward VI College.

Participants came from Haybridge High School, King Edward VI Sixth Form College, Old Swinford Hospital School, Pedmore Technology College and Redhill School and were swelled by members of Stourbridge Rotary Club. They picked their own themes for the speeches made in front of students, parents and teachers.

Rotarians joined members of Stourbridge Speakers Club to help judge the contest.

Winners go through to the district round. They were: in the Intermediate category, aged 11-13, Aimee Erb, Skye Warwicker and Georgia Phillips from Redhill School and in the senior section, aged 14-17, George Glasby, Manraj Sanghera and Ben Phillips.

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Trust bids to keep 111 line

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service will seek to continue running the NHS 111 number for up to five more years.

The non-emergency number endured a troubled start when it was launched in 2013, leading to the ambulance service taking it on from NHS Direct.

The ambulance service now answers 111 calls for Birmingham, Solihull, the Black Country, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Coventry and Warwickshire.

Since it took over the running more than one million calls have been made and the trust which runs West Midlands Ambulance Service has taken the first step in its bid to retain the NHS 111 contract for the region.

The trust's clinical commissioning chief Mark Docherty said bosses would do 'everything we can' to continue running 111 from its Dudley base.

Whistleblowing measures will not stop bullying, claim

A FORMER Dudley hospital worker says new government measures to help NHS whistleblowers speak up over concerns will do nothing to stop staff being victimised.

All NHS trusts will have to appoint a guardian to help whistleblowers in England and a National Independent Officer will be appointed to oversee disputes, under reforms proposed by Sir Robert Francis.

But no hospital bosses will face action over historical cases where whistleblowers have been bullied, hounded out of their jobs, and left with their careers in tatters for speaking out. David Ore claimed he lost his job at Dudley Group of Hospitals after he alleged patients were being inappropriately restrained. An independent investigation cleared the hospital of any wrongdoing and the trust said he lost his job for gross misconduct. Mr Ore, aged 58, is still out of work and unable to get a job.

He said: "I don't think this report will make a blind bit of difference.

"I am bitterly disappointed that the government will not investigate former cases but I guess it would be too embarrassing for them.

"Unless there are clear criminal sanction for NHS bosses who treat whistleblowers with contempt and ruin their careers then there is no way forward."

Mr Ore managed security staff across the three hospitals run by the Dudley Group of Hospitals, but was suspended in November 2012 and sacked five months later after a disciplinary hearing. He won an appeal but was again ordered out on 'special leave'. The parties eventually settled out of court.

Sir Robert, who led the Stafford Hospital inquiry, said a new national officer should be appointed to help the guardians.

But Mr Ore is disappointed that a new National Independent Officer proposed by the review will not be tasked with investigating historical cases such as his.

The government immediately accepted all of Sir Robert's recommendations. Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt said legislation to ensure whistleblowers were not discriminated against when they went for other jobs would also be introduced.

Tickets on sale for fundraiser

TICKETS are still available for a variety show featuring music and drama performances.

The evening, starring people with learning disabilities, is being held in aid of the Mayor of Dudley's charities – Guide Dogs and Action Heart – next Tuesday, February 24, from 7-9.30pm.

Highlights will include dance, music and poetry renditions as well as pieces by theatre groups including Dance Unity, Side by Side Theatre Company, Kaleidoscope Theatre Group, Open Stage Dance Group, Halas Drama and Choir with Sing & Sign.

The evening's finale will be a sing-along medley of all performers and the audience, concluding in a performance of Take That's hit song Shine.

Tickets are £5, with free entry for young people with learning disabilities.

Call 01384 812812, visit Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley, or buy online at www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment

Crossing upgraded over safety fears

Councillors Keiran Casey, left, and Adam Aston at the crossing near the Aquashop and Mount Tabor church

A CROSSING along a busy Black Country road has been upgraded following claims motorists were failing to stop for pedestrians.

Residents have been battling for action at the crossing in Sedgley Road, Woodsetton, for nearly two years – raising a petition containing around 500 signatures.

Councillors said work on the zebra crossing, near Mount Tabor church, had now taken place with flashing LED lights being added to the columns. Metal 'halos' also equipped with small flashing lights have been installed around the orange beacons.

Other measures in the pipeline include improved markings and anti-skid surfacing.

Councillors said replacing the zebra crossing with a pelican crossing remained an option if problems continued.

Residents launched the campaign after complaints motorists were not stopping – even when pedestrians were already on it. Councillor Keiran Casey, ward member for Upper Gornal and Woodsetton, has been leading the campaign along with fellow councillor Adam Aston. He said: "It is hoped these upgrades, with flashing lights added to the columns and beacons, will deal with that issue."

GPs offering free shingles vaccination

PEOPLE aged 70 to 80 are being offered a vaccination against shingles. GPs are offering the vaccine for free at surgeries across Dudley borough.

Unlike the flu jab, the shingles vaccine is only needed once.

Councillor Rachel Harris, Dudley Council's cabinet member for health, said: "For most people, shingles can be a mild infection with good recovery, but for others it can be very painful and uncomfortable.

"The vaccine reduces the risk of getting the illness, but for those who do get it, their symptoms may be milder and the illness shorter than if they weren't protected.

"If you haven't already been vaccinated, please get in touch with your GP surgery to make an appointment."

For more information, speak to your GP or practice nurse or visit the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk/shingles

Driver charged after collision

A MOTORIST has been charged with drink driving after hitting a lamp post in a smash in the early hours.

Debris was scattered across the street after the car left the road and struck the post in Lye, Stourbridge. Emergency services were called to the scene in Providence Street, at around 1.55am on Friday.

Crews from Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were called to the accident, along with paramedics, to help ensure the car was safe.

West Midlands Police spokesman Deb Edmonds confirmed the driver had been arrested and charged.

Paul Andrews, aged 48, of Valley Road, Lye, was charged with driving while under the influence of alcohol. He was bailed to appear at Dudley Magistrates Court on February 27.

Prolific burglars with more 100 offences snared by DNA

TWO career criminals responsible for a string of house burglaries have been jailed after DNA evidence proved their guilt.

Paul Gallagher, aged 39, of Hayes Croft, Birmingham and Dennis Steenson, of no fixed abode, were responsible for the break-ins across the West Midlands.

But Gallagher left a glove near the scene of a house he broke into in Christopher Road, Halesowen, in August 2014 which helped to identify him. He was jailed for three-and-a-half years, while Steenson, 38, received 33 months after they were found guilty at Stafford Crown Court.

The pair, who denied the charges, had more than 100 previous convictions between them. DNA and CCTV evidence showing Steenson using credit cards stolen from a previous burglary sealed their fate.

Balaclava

The court heard that Steenson wore a balaclava to break into a property at Rednall Road, West Heath, in June last year, but in his rush to escape, left it on a window sill and when detectives sent it off for analysis, a DNA match identified Steenson as the burglar. Gallagher was found guilty of a further burglary at Fillongley Road, Meriden, while the pair were also convicted of handling stolen goods after a Peugeot and Ford Focus were stolen in Kings Norton and Northfield.

DC Nick Betts, of the force's priorities team, said: "Gallagher is a prolific burglar who has been arrested or charged with 115 offences since 1989.

"He was identified as involved in these burglaries, he progressed to committing more offences with Steenson and the pair proved very elusive."

School set for theatre festival

A BOARDING school has been selected to take part in a national theatre festival.

Old Swinford Hospital in Stourbridge will take part in Connections, the National Theatre's festival of new plays, written by young people.

The school has chosen to perform a play called Remote, a play about 'protest, power and protecting yourself', running on March 9 and 10 at 7pm.

Tickets are £3 and can be reserved by emailing tpharris@oshsch.com or calling 01384 817300. Head of drama Tim Harris said: "This is a fantastic opportunity."

Around 230 youth theatres from around the country will take part in the competition, with 10 being chosen to go to the closing festival in London on July.

Historic link to road names

Tony Cartwright and his granddaughter Megan Cartwright in Cromwell Drive

LEGEND has it that Oliver Cromwell fired cannons at Dudley Castle from the surrounding streets lending Cromwell Drive its name.

Historians have subsequently disputed this, arguing the guns at the time were incapable of causing damage from such a distance.

But it is true that Cromwell was locked in a battle in Cawney Hill in 1644, and used Kates Hill as his base against Charles I.

Resident Tony Cartwright, aged 68, said: "I have heard the stories that this is where Cromwell cannoned the castle. That is why there are roads around here named after him. I don't think a lot of people around here, especially the young ones, would know about it."

Bryan Morton, 70, said: "It is called that because Cromwell came up here. They went from here to the castle and they shot cannons from here."

The 18th century Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire was the birthplace of Winston Churchill, and has become a popular tourist destination. So is this where Blenheim Road in Kingswinford came from?

Blenheim Palace was built as a reward to John Churchill, The First Duke of Marlborough, for his military triumphs against the French and Bavarians during the War of the Spanish Succession, culminating in the 1704 Battle of Blenheim. But residents were at a loss over its significance.

Leanne Lees, 35, who has lived there for 10 years, added: "I never realised there was a link. I don't know anything about the Battle of Blenheim."

Alan Smith, 65, said: "I know about Blenheim Palace but not the battle."

Graffiti prompts clean-up pledge

GRAFFITI sprayed on buildings in Stourbridge town centre, including the hoarding outside a new hotel, has prompted a clean up pledge.

Dudley Council has vowed to remove graffiti daubed on buildings including walls at Stourbridge Town Hall and electrical boxes in Coventry Street.

More has been sprayed on hoardings near the new Premier Inn, off Birmingham Street.

Members of Stourbridge Township Council raised the issue with councillors at a meeting last week. Dudley Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We rely on people reporting issues to us and our street cleansing team will act quickly to clean up this vandalism.

"We are committed to ensuring borough residents live in a clean environment and the authority will not tolerate anti-social behaviour such as graffiti. We would ask people to report graffiti to us on 0300 555 2345.

Body tone beats blues

FITNESS classes have been launched at Crystal Leisure Centre in Stourbridge. Organisers say they will help beat the winter blues.

Body tone is a low-impact class which includes fat burning and muscle strengthening exercises to give all-over body toning.

The hour-long session, on Tuesdays from 5.30pm, is suitable for all levels of fitness.

The class costs £4.70 per person. To book, call 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport

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Guild hopes to find two quiz teams

Kingswinford TWG

AS usual, the guild met in Kingswinford Community Centre on the second Monday of the month, in this instance, February 9.

Members were handed envelopes in which to put their annual subscription.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, accepted and signed. Joy Williams was welcomed as the latest new member.

The minutes of the Federation meeting were read and very briefly discussed and members were asked questions concerning the future of events, now that the Federation has shrunk somewhat.

Events in the pipeline were read out and names are being taken for the quiz team. In fact, the guild hopes it can muster up two teams.

Events to mark the 50th anniversary of the community centre was announced.

Thanks were expressed by Mary Stevens Hospice for the blankets delivered there. The Wednesday Club is currently knitting more. Donations of odds and ends of double knitting yarn would be gratefully accepted.

The speaker was Dave Wilkins, aka 'Big Dave', who gave a very amusing but thought-provoking talk about his years in the police force. He was thanked by Chris Moy.

The raffle was won by Joy Williams and Doreen Comley. Brenda Greenaway was thanked for bringing flowers to brighten the room.

The next meeting will be on March 9, which will be the AGM.

Members show off their floral creations

Guild members show off the beautiful flower arrangements they created

Sedgley Morning TG

THE flower arranging section of Sedgley Morning Townswomen's Guild are shown looking very proud of their afternoon's work creating these lovely floral arrangements.

The guild meets once a month and is not just limited to flower arranging as members with other skills are very much encouraged to attend. The guild meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10am at All Saints Church Hall where visitors and new members are always welcome.

Tales of a life in showbusiness

Black Country Society Kingswinford Branch

THE first meeting of the year took place in St Mary's Church Hall, Kingswinford.

The speaker was Bob Broadfield who at the age of 86, told the fascinating story of his life in showbusiness.

He had joined the Merchant Navy on leaving school, then went into the Army and after many adventures back at home took a great interest in films, cinemas and local theatres where he saw popular music hall artists of the time.

Eventually he became an acrobat and joined with Marilyn whom he married.

They performed in clubs and theatres and travelled the world meeting many famous people.

On March 18, at the Church Centre, The Village, at 7.45pm, the speaker will be Siddig Hussein on 'The history of British movie studios'.

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COMPASS BY WEST COAST

Rick wit and the prog rock veterans

PROG rock veterans are back in the Black Country next week with the return of some of the biggest names from the 70s progressive rock genre.

Former Yes keyboardist, raconteur Rick Wakeman presents Yet Another Evening With at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on February 26. It blends tales from his rock career and examples of his virtuoso skills. Support is from harmonious folk-singing siblings The Cadbury Sisters.

On the same night Coloseum return 45 years since they originally split, to play the Robin 2 in Bilston. The line up includes founder John Hiseman, his wife Barbara Thompson on sax (she has been battling Parkinson's Disease) and singer Chris Farlowe.

Psychocandy is back on the menu

INFLUENTIAL rock band The Jesus and Mary Chain, based around Scottish brothers Jim and William Reid, will go back to their pioneering Psychocandy 1985 debut for a gig at Birmingham Institute on Wednesday, February 25.

Meanwhile, rock veterans Paul Jones and Dave Kelly bring The Blues Band to Bilston's Robin 2 tonight (Thursday). Charlie Simpson's reunited Fightstar are at the Institute on Monday with Pond at the Digbeth venue the following night. Brum's Ocean Colour Scene have two nights at Symphony Hall celebrating 25 years on Saturday and Tuesday.

By royal appointment — the king and his speech therapist

Walking, dancing, living doll

BIRMINGHAM Royal Ballet return home to Birmingham Hippodrome to begin a special year that marks their 25th anniversary in the city and director-choreographer David Bintley's 20th year at the company.

Family favourite Coppélia, about an eccentric toymaker who wants to bring a life-sized doll to life and is tricked, is staged from Tuesday to Saturday, February 28. First performed by the company in 1995, Sir Peter Wright's production is one of BRB's most popular classical ballets. Each performance will feature a different ballerina in the comic-romantic role of Swanilda.

This week, until Saturday, the company present Moving Stateside, three short ballets including George Blanchine's elegant Serenade, Jessica Lang's innovative Lyric Pieces and Twyla Tharp's exhilarating In the Upper Room.

Elisha Willis as Coppélia/Swanilda and David Morse as toymaker Doctor Coppélius

THE King's Speech – the play from which the Oscar-winning movie was adapted – will star Raymond Coulthard as King George VI and Jason Donovan as his Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue at Birmingham Repertory Theatre next week.

The production is directed by the Rep's artistic director Roxana Silbert and is staged from Wednesday, February 25, to Saturday, March 7. The play tells of the stammering king's relationship with his unconventional therapist as his brother's abdication thrusts him into the public eye.

Aussie soap and pop star Jason Donovan has successfully created a stage career, whilst Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) and National Theatre actor Raymond Coulthard is best know as Miles Egerton in ITV drama Mr Selfridge.

Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre continues its association with some of the nation's finest theatre companies. The National Theatre's touring production of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time continues until Saturday. Then the RSC and English Touring Theatre's production of A Mad World My Masters has a short run from February 26 to 28. A hit when it was staged at Stratford in 2013, Sean Foley's production updates Thomas Middleton's raucous 1600s comedy to seedy 1950s Soho where life is a matter of scam or be scammed.

Jason Donovan and Raymond Coulthard in The King's Speech

EastEnders director Kate Saxon returns to the theatre with a touring revival of Alan Bennett's comedy-drama The History Boys, at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday. The movie version of the play, about precocious Yorkshire grammar school students aiming to get to university in Oxford or Cambridge, launched the careers of James Corden and Dominic Cooper.

Buzz around The Honey Man play

AN AGEING Caribbean recluse who keeps bees and a teenage heiress clash in The Honey Man by Tyrone Huggins, with the Birmingham playwright himself in the titular role, at The Rep's The Door venue until Saturday. The play is then at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Tuesday (matinee and evening).

Meanwhile, 1940s American comedy Harvey continues at Birmingham Rep until Saturday with James Dreyfuss as the man with an invisible giant rabbit pal and Maureen Lipman as his long-suffering sister.

Over at the New Alexandra Theatre, Jodie Prenger will continue to whipcrack-away as Calamity Jane until Saturday in the wild west musical.

NME Awards tour rolls in for city gig

THE NME Awards Tour rolls into Birmingham this month with a chance to see four bands who won over critics at the music journal.

This year the tour, which is being backed by the trendy Texan city of Austin, marks 25 years of discovering major talent, such as Coldplay, The Killers, Arctic Monkeys and, last year, Royal Blood.

The line-up at Digbeth's Institute on Saturday, February 28, includes Glasgow rockers The Amazing Snakeheads, Brighton punk dance duo Slaves, the controversial Fat White Family and headliners London garage rockers Palma Violets.

CHOICE

Ant McPartlin and Dec Donnelly

Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway (ITV, 7pm)

The popular Geordie duo return with a new series of the entertainment show, featuring pranks, sketches, famous guests and competitions. Singer Olly Murs becomes the latest victim of the pair's undercover pranks as they infiltrate the pop star's final session for his very own wax figure at Madame Tussauds Blackpool. Singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran performs live in the studio, and former Pussycat Doll Ashley Roberts leaves the hosts in a spin as she presides over the first round of Ant v Dec. Plus, one lucky member of the studio audience plays for the contents of a commercial break.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **12.50** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** Live Athletics: Birmingham Indoor Grand Prix. Coverage from the Barclaycard Arena in Birmingham. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. With famous faces from the world of children's TV. (R)

6.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.30 Now You See It. Magic highlights, featuring befuddled traffic wardens, a card trick performed during a skydive and an eye-popping illusion with a Rubik's Cube. Narrated by Mel Giedroyc.

7.00 The Voice UK. It's the final round of blind auditions and it's bound to be a tense time for all as the coaches fill the last few places on their teams. Will.i.am, Tom Jones, Rita Ora and Ricky Wilson will only want the best singers to take through to next week's battle rounds, when their acts will be pitted against each other in head-to-head knockout performances. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes meet the hopefuls, who include burlesque dancer Amber Topaz and Tina Turner impersonator Andrew Marc.

8.25 The National Lottery: Win Your Wish List. Shane Richie hosts the game show in which two contestants answer questions to win each other's dream prizes. Including the lottery draws, with guest Marco Pierre White.

9.15 Casualty. A woman is admitted with stomach cramps – but when Dylan and Lofty dig out her notes, she is forced to confess a big secret. Connie helps a teenager with Tourette's syndrome.

10.05 BBC News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Burnley at Stamford Bridge and Manchester City v Newcastle United at the Etihad Stadium; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Brentford v Bournemouth.

1.10 EastEnders. (R) **4.05** Weather for the Week Ahead. **4.10** BBC News.

BBC2

7.25 Film: Summer Magic. (1963) **9.10** Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam. (R) **9.40** The Fred Dibnah Story. (R) **10.10** British Isles: A Natural History. (R) **11.00** Six Nations Rewind. **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** A Taste of Britain. **1.00** A Taste of Britain. **1.30** On the Waterfront: Talking Pictures. **2.00 Film:** On the Waterfront. (1954) Drama, with Marlon Brando. **3.45 Film:** The Go-Between. (1971) Period drama, with Julie Christie. **5.35** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R)

6.35 Flog It! Experts David Barby and Elizabeth Talbot head to the seaside town of Skegness in Lincolnshire, where they value items brought in by locals.

7.30 How We Got to Now with Steven Johnson. The American author explores the technological innovations in the measurement of time, examining the stories of the unsung heroes whose ideas transformed the world. He looks at the developments made by a railway clerk who fought to standardise time zones and the cobbler who invented the first cheap watch.

8.30 Dad's Army. Private Pike receives his call-up papers and unexpectedly passes his medical, much to the horror of his mollycoddling mother. (R)

9.00 Reginald D Hunter's Songs of the South. New series. The Georgia-born, London-based comedian goes on a road trip to explore the American South through its songs both past and present, beginning with the music of Kentucky and Tennessee. He examines the disturbing tradition of blackface minstrels, and visits Dollywood theme park, a slave plantation, the home of country music in Nashville, a moonshine distillery in Gatlinburg and a string-band festival in Mount Air. Featuring contributions by Dolly Parton, the Handsome Family and Del McCoury.

10.00 Film: Gambit. (2012) Premiere. A put-upon art expert plans revenge on a millionaire by tricking him into buying a fake Monet painting. Comedy remake, with Colin Firth, Cameron Diaz and Alan Rickman.

11.20 Film: Spider. (2002) A schizophrenic pieces together the traumatic childhood events that led to his condition. Psychological thriller, starring Ralph Fiennes and Miranda Richardson.

12.55 This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.35** The Unforgettable Hattie Jacques. (R) **2.05** The Chase. (R) **3.05** Doc Martin. (R) **4.05** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **5.05** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.15** ITV News; Weather. **5.25** You've Been Framed! Presents. Harry Hill's absurd thoughts on a variety of subjects. (R)

6.30 Planet's Got Talent. A man covers himself in giant crabs, a preschool Popeye flexes his muscles, a pig shows off its football skills and a hopeful plays the harmonica with his nose. Last in the series.

7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. New series. The duo play an undercover prank on Olly Murs at Madame Tussauds Blackpool, and battle it out in the first round of Ant v Dec. Ed Sheeran performs live in the studio.

8.25 Take Me Out. Builder Rich, blacksmith Andy, business manager Ashley and estate agent Ross vie for the attentions of 30 single women, intent on securing a date. Paddy McGuinness hosts.

9.40 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Absolutely Fabulous star Jennifer Saunders, who recently finished writing the script for the big-screen version of the hit sitcom, and Take Me Out presenter Paddy McGuinness, who is embarking on a 50-date tour later this year. Plus, actor Nick Frost, long-time comedy partner of Simon Pegg.

10.40 ITV News; Weather.

10.55 Film: I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry. (2007) A fireman asks a male colleague to pretend to marry him to get round a problem with his late wife's life insurance policy. Comedy, with Adam Sandler and Kevin James.

12.55 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** The King of Queens. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** Child Genius. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Kempton Park, Newcastle and Lingfield Park. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **5.45** The Simpsons. (R)

6.10 The Simpsons. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Homes by the Sea. New series. Charlie Luxton visits some of Britain's best seaside properties and designs his own fantasy home in each location, taking inspiration from local architecture and scenery. He begins on the Pembrokeshire coast, where he views a space-age home built into the cliffs of St Brides Bay and advises a couple undertaking a huge renovation project overlooking Fishguard Harbour. He then heads to Newport, sailing up the River Nevern to explore the secrets of a remarkable waterside property, before visiting an ancient castle that doubles up as a cosy period cottage.

8.00 The World's Weirdest Weather. A look at weather at its strangest and fastest, featuring a cloud enveloping a supersonic jet, apocalyptic black rain, towering waterspouts and a red waterfall. Last in the series.

9.00 Film: Silver Linings Playbook. (2012) Premiere. A teacher is committed to a psychiatric institution after battering his wife's lover. Eight months later, he is released into the care of his parents and sets about rebuilding his ruined life, finding help in the shape of a woman with psychological issues of her own to resolve. Romantic comedy drama, starring an Oscar-winning Jennifer Lawrence, with Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro.

11.25 Film: Green Zone. (2010) A military officer searching Iraq for weapons of mass destruction after the US invasion uncovers a conspiracy. Thriller, starring Matt Damon and Greg Kinnear.

1.35 The Last Leg. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.25** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) **10.55** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.20** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.15** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **2.10** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **3.05 Film:** Columbo: How to Dial a Murder. (1978) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **4.35 Film:** Columbo: Murder – A Self Portrait. (1989) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.25 NCIS. Ducky reopens a case while on medical leave by talking officials into releasing the body of a navy commander whose post-mortem he carried out 12 years previously. (R)

7.05 NCIS. The team is called in to investigate when three dehydrated survivors from a helicopter crash are discovered. The pilot is initially missing, but his body later washes ashore with a gunshot wound to the head. Things get complicated when one of the crew members tells the agents the chopper was hit by another aircraft, while another states that the pilot tried to kill them all by crashing into the sea on purpose. (R)

8.00 5 News Weekend.

8.05 Law & Order. Lupo and Green are called to the scene after a white teenage boy and a black girl are shot and killed, but locals are unwilling to talk about the incident. Previously seen on 5USA.

9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Morgan, Sara and Julie take a break from normal duty by attending a forensics conference, but any thoughts of a peaceful getaway are shattered when a gunman bursts in and starts shooting into the crowd at a lecture before continuing on a rampage through the hotel. The team discovers the attacker had killed a hotel security guard just a few days before and was thought to be targeting specific individuals on his spree, including Dr Jane Snyder, a former colleague of Sara.

10.00 World Championship Boxing: Live From Monte Carlo. Gennady Golovkin v Martin Murray. Live coverage of the bout for the WBA Super, WBC Interim and IBO World Middleweight titles, from Salle des Etoiles in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

12.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **7.20** Top Gear **8.25 Film:** Meet the Parents (2000) **10.10** Live at the Apollo **10.40** Family Guy **12.55** Crims **3.50** Close

BBC Four

7.00 Natural World: Tiger Island **8.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **9.00** Hostages **10.20** Charlie Brooker's Weekly Wipe **10.50** Queens of Heartache **11.50** Queens of Jazz: The Joy and Pain of the Jazz Divas **12.50** Top of the Pops: 1980 **1.30** Sounds of the 70s 2 Punk – Anarchy on the BBC **2.00** Natural World: Tiger Island **3.00** A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley **4.00** Close

ITV2

11.15 Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **1.10 Film:** Richie Rich (1994) **3.00 Film:** Mr Magorium's Wonder Emporium (2007) **4.55** You've Been Framed! **5.25 Film:** Back to the Future (1985) **7.45 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.40** Take Me Out – The Gossip **10.25** Reality Bites **11.10** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **11.35** Ibiza Weekender **12.35 Film:** The Invention of Lying (2009) **2.25** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.45 A Touch of Frost **1.55** Wycliffe **3.05 Film:** Carry On Again Doctor (1969) **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **6.55** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.05** Lewis **12.10** A Touch of Frost **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

11.00 The Big Fish Off **12.00 Film:** For Whom the Bell Tolls (1943) **3.10 Film:** Field of Dreams (1989) **5.20** Storage Wars **7.15** Storage Wars: Texas **8.10 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00 Film:** Plunkett & Macleane (1999) **1.05** River Monsters **2.00** Hogan's Heroes **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.00 Taking New York **12.00** Marry Me **12.30** New Girl **1.30** Melissa & Joey **2.30** Baby Daddy **3.30** How I Met Your Mother **4.30** Rules of Engagement **5.30** Troy **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** The Inbetweeners Movie (2011) **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **1.05** Troy **2.10** 2 Broke Girls **2.35** How I Met Your Mother **3.20** Don't Trust the B***** in Apartment 23 **4.05** Suburgatory **4.25** One Tree Hill **5.10** Desperate Housewives

Film4

11.00 Town on Trial (1957) **1.00** Beaches (1988) **3.30** Marley and Me (2008) **6.00** Independence Day (1996) **9.00** Vehicle 19 (2013) **10.40** Pusher (2012) **12.25** The Cold Light of Day (2012) **2.15** Rize (2005) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE

Jemima West

Indian Summers (Channel 4, 9pm)
The fallout from the shooting reverberates around Simla and a curfew is imposed to deal with the supposed terrorist threat, and the arrival of a journalist causes trouble for Ralph when he tries to uncover the truth behind the assassination attempt. Ian is shocked to learn of his uncle's financial difficulties, while Eugene and Cynthia conspire to push Madeleine and Ralph closer together. Sarah becomes suspicious of Alice's past and turns detective to find out why she really moved to India. Drama set during the summer of 1932, telling the story of the decline of the British Empire and the birth of modern India. Starring Julie Walters and and Henry Lloyd-Hughes.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. **11.30** MOTD2 Extra. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** The Link. **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Eat Well for Less? (R) **3.45** Your Home in Their Hands. **4.45** Lifeline. **4.55** Songs of Praise. **5.30** BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. New series. Una Stubbs and Richard Bacon host this art competition, in which 10 keen amateurs take on three specially designed challenges each week, showing their skills across a range of mediums – from oil, acrylic and watercolour painting to pencil, charcoal and chalk drawing – and different themes, including landscapes, still life and portraiture. Their efforts are judged by painters Daphne Todd and Lachlan Goudie – and they are the ones who decide who will be leaving the contest at the end of each show.

7.00 Countryfile. The team explores how erosion has shaped Suffolk, Matt Baker joins scientists to view a town swallowed by the sea centuries ago and Tom Heap investigates the price of milk. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Call the Midwife. A diabetic teenager faces heartbreak when she falls pregnant as a result of a clandestine romance. The midwives become involved with a settlement of Irish travellers.

9.00 The Casual Vacancy. As "the Ghost of Barry Fairbrother" makes further accusations, Samantha throws a dinner party to smooth things over – but things get out of control when Howard and Shirley arrive.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Southampton v Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham United and Everton v Leicester City.

11.40 The Super League Show: World Club Series Special. Action from the World Club Series, featuring three fixtures, including St Helens v South Sydney Rabbitohs in the World Club Challenge from Langtree Park.

12.25 The Apprentice USA. **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.15** Great British Garden Revival. (R) **7.15** Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Football League Show. (R) **10.20** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.50** The Great Comic Relief Bake Off. (R) **12.50** Live Cycling. Coverage of the final day of the UCI Track World Championships. **4.30** The Wonder of Animals. (R) **5.00** Alaska – Earth's Frozen Kingdom. (R)

6.00 Speed Dreams: The Fastest Place on Earth. Every year thousands of motor sports enthusiasts from all over the world descend upon a dried-up salt lake in Bonneville, Utah, hoping to join the elite group of the fastest people on earth. This two-part documentary follows British petrolheads building machines that they hope will make a mark in America, beginning by meeting the obsessive men behind the machines, including a Great Yarmouth beach cleaner with a formidable reputation as a motorcycle builder. Bill Nighy narrates. (R)

7.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway. Documentary following the work of more than 10,000 engineers and construction workers as they build Crossrail – a new train line linking east and west London. (R)

8.00 Top Gear. Richard Hammond compares the Porsche Cayman GTS with the latest Chevrolet Corvette and James May takes the LaFerrari hybrid hypercar out for a spin in Italy. With guest Olly Murs.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas pitched include a new form of transportation, a subscription box of foodie treats, a safety device for boats and a home-made marmalade brand. Evan Davis presents.

10.00 Meet the Ukippers. Documentary offering an insight into UKIP as cameras follow activists over the course of six months in South Thanet, Kent, where Nigel Farage is standing at the General Election.

10.50 Film: Blackthorn. (2011) Premiere. Butch Cassidy plans to return home to his family from exile in Bolivia, but is drawn into one last criminal adventure. Western, starring Sam Shepard and Eduardo Noriega.

12.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.25** Holby City. (R) **2.25** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Sooty. (R) **7.25** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.30** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.35** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.50** Scrambled!: Deadtime Stories. (R) **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The Unforgettable Kenneth Williams. (R) **1.10** Mel & Sue's Best Bits. **2.15** The Chase. (R) **3.10** Tipping Point. (R) **4.15 Film:** Octopussy. (1983) James Bond investigates the mysterious death of a fellow agent in East Berlin and uncovers a plot to start a third world war. Spy adventure, starring Roger Moore and Maud Adams.

6.40 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.45 ITV News; Weather.

7.00 Get Your Act Together. Ray Quinn, James Bolam, Claire Richards, Chip and last week's winner return to the stage with their mentors for the live final, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. Last in the series.

8.15 All Star Family Fortunes. Impressionist Jon Culshaw and Emmerdale actress Fiona Wade (Priya Sharma) team up with their families in an attempt to win a jackpot of £30,000 for charity. Vernon Kay hosts.

9.00 Mr Selfridge. Harry announces the acquisition of the Selfridge Estate – but Loxley is out to get him. Kitty receives unwelcome press attention and Princess Marie is forced to tell Lois the truth. Drama based on the life of Harry Gordon Selfridge, starring Jeremy Piven.

10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Bear Grylls: Mission Survive. Eight celebrities face a challenging 12-day expedition in the rainforest of Costa Rica, competing to remain in the programme each week and get through to the final. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, including Bath v Northampton Saints, Harlequins v Exeter Chiefs and London Irish v Leicester Tigers.

12.15 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 NFL: Rush Zone. **6.45** How I Met Your Mother. **7.05** How I Met Your Mother. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25 Film:** Love Happens. (2009) Romantic drama, starring Aaron Eckhart and Jennifer Aniston. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Jasmine Harman helps Ann and Chris Goodwin from Leicestershire in their search for a Spanish holiday property in the hills west of Malaga.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Four Rooms. New series. Anita Rani returns with the show in which members of the public gamble offers they receive on prized possessions. Dealers Jeff Salmon, Wendy Meakin, Raj Bisram and Peter Ratcliffe dig deep into their pockets for a tennis racket once owned by Andy Murray, a piece of Admiral Nelson's ship HMS Victory, artworks by Lucian Freud and Francis Bacon, and cutting-edge aircraft furniture.

8.00 The Auction House. Boss Roger announces his latest plan to increase profits – a new minimum price of £500 – while a cash-strapped artist hopes to raise the money for a deposit on a flat.

9.00 Indian Summers. A curfew is imposed to deal with the supposed terrorist threat, the arrival of a journalist causes trouble for Ralph, and Sarah turns detective to find out why Alice moved to India.

10.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Sean Lock and Jason Manford compete against guest captain Sarah Millican and Jonathan Ross, while Bill Bailey joins Susie Dent in Dictionary Corner. Last in the series. (R)

11.05 Film: Moonrise Kingdom. (2012) Premiere. The inhabitants of an island community are thrown into a panic as they search for two runaway children. Wes Anderson's comedy drama, with Bruce Willis and Edward Norton.

12.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.40** The Million Pound Drop. (R) **2.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.35** Face the Clock. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. **7.05** Mio Mao. (R) **7.10** Olly the Little White Van. **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.30** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.40** Zack and Quack. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.35** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **11.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **1.00 Film:** Innerspace. (1987) Sci-fi comedy, starring Dennis Quaid. **3.20 Film:** Stand By Me. (1986) Coming-of-age drama, starring River Phoenix. **4.55 Film:** Honey, I Shrunk the Kids. (1989) Disney comedy, starring Rick Moranis.

6.45 Film: WarGames. (1983) A teenager hacks into a top-secret military supercomputer, which challenges him to what he thinks is a game. However, the machine has complete control of the US nuclear arsenal, and the youngster's actions are unwittingly pushing the world to the brink of war. Thriller, starring Matthew Broderick, Ally Sheedy, Dabney Coleman and John Wood. Part of the 80s Movie Marathon. Edited for language and flashing images.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Film: Top Gun. (1986) An arrogant pilot's maverick flying skills earn him a place in an elite US Navy school, where he comes into conflict with a fellow student and falls for his civilian instructor. A tragedy in the air threatens to end his military career – until an international incident offers him a chance to redeem himself. Aerial action adventure, starring Tom Cruise, Kelly McGillis, Val Kilmer, Anthony Edwards and Tom Skerritt. Part of the 80s Movie Marathon.

11.15 Film: Young Guns. (1988) Billy the Kid and his gang become outlaws as they seek revenge for their employer's murder by a rival rancher. Western, starring Emilio Estevez, Kiefer Sutherland and Charlie Sheen. Part of the 80s Movie Marathon.

1.15 SuperCasino. **3.10** 10,000 BC. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three

7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **7.05** Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.35** The Voice UK **9.00** Russell Howard's Good News **10.00** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** Uncle **12.15** American Dad! **12.35** I Survived a Zombie Apocalypse **1.35** Bangkok Airport **2.30** South Side Story **3.00** Bangkok Airport **3.55** Close

BBC Four

7.00 The Great War **7.40** Britain's Wild Places **8.00** Mark Lawson Talks to Kazuo Ishiguro **9.00** Storyville: Love Is All **10.15 Film:** Mystery Road (2013) **12.10** Status Quo: Live and Acoustic **1.10** When Rock Goes Acoustic **2.10** Acoustic at the BBC **3.10** Sounds of the 70s 2 New Wave – Hit Me with Your Rhythm Stick **3.40** Close

ITV2

11.45 Take Me Out **1.00** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.45** You've Been Framed! **2.10** Scorpion **3.05** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.35 Film:** Nanny McPhee (2005) **6.30 Film:** Jurassic Park (1993) **9.00** Ibiza Weekender **10.00** The Keith Lemon Sketch Show **10.30 Film:** White Chicks (2004) **12.50** Fool Britannia **1.20** Fake Reaction **1.55** Life's Funniest Moments **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

11.40 Goodnight Mister Tom **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.50** Rosemary & Thyme **4.55** Inspector Morse **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Sunday Night at the Palladium **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** City Lights **11.35 Film:** The Portrait of a Lady (1996) **2.15** Countrywise **3.10** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale

ITV4

11.40 Pawn Stars **2.25 Film:** Dunkirk (1958) **5.10 Film:** Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol (1987) **7.00** The Big Fish Off **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Harry's South Pole Heroes **10.00** Cricket World Cup Highlights **11.00 Film:** Tango & Cash (1989) **1.10** Hell on Wheels **1.55** The Professionals **2.45** Movies Now **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

12.30 Revenge **1.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **2.30** The 100 **3.30 Film:** Furry Vengeance (2010) **5.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.05** The Inbetweeners Top 10 Moments **12.10** Taking New York **1.15** Rules of Engagement **2.15** The New Normal **3.00** Suburgatory **3.20** Hollyoaks

Film4

11.00 At the Earth's Core (1976) **1.00** The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (2010) **3.20** The 7th Voyage of Sinbad (1958) **5.10** A Monster in Paris (2011) **6.55** The Day the Earth Stood Still (2008) **9.00** The A-Team (2010) **11.20** Me, Myself and Irene (2000) **1.40** Aparajito (1957) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Heist, BBC1, 12.30am
A veteran criminal's charmed life comes to an abrupt end when he is caught on security camera. He is blackmailed by a dealer in stolen goods, who threatens to turn him over to the police if he does not carry out a gold robbery. The thief also suspects his wife is planning to leave him for a younger crook. Thriller from writer-director David Mamet, starring Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito and Ricky Jay. (2001)

TUESDAY
Carry On Henry, ITV, 11.40pm
King Henry VIII plots to rid himself of his new French wife when her craving for garlic becomes too much to cope with. However, he cannot afford to anger the king of France, and tries to make it look as if his queen has had an affair. Comedy, starring Sid James, Joan Sims, Kenneth Williams and Kenneth Connor. (1971)

WEDNESDAY
Citizenfour, Channel 4, 11.05pm
Laura Poitras' Bafta-winning documentary follows her meetings with whistleblower Edward Snowden, as he reveals evidence of a massive campaign of illegal surveillance carried out on US citizens by the country's National Security Agency. When the story goes public, they find themselves at the centre of a media storm and facing decisions that would have a huge impact on their lives. (2014)

Doubt, Friday, BBC2, 11.05pm

THURSDAY
Having You, BBC1, 11.45pm
A man with a fear of commitment finally manages to overcome his doubts and propose to his girlfriend. He finds himself facing new responsibilities when he runs into a woman he once had a one-night stand with, only to discover he is the father of her seven-year-old son. Drama, starring Anna Friel and Romola Garai. (2013)

FRIDAY
Doubt, BBC2, 11.05pm
A disciplinarian nun at a Catholic school in 1960s New York suspects a charismatic priest of behaving inappropriately with a student. A battle of wills ensues between the pair as she tries to gather definitive evidence beyond her own moral certainty. Drama based on director John Patrick Shanley's stage play, starring Meryl Streep and Philip Seymour Hoffman. (2008)

PICK OF THE WEEK

Hopefuls aim to step in the right direction

For some celebrities, squeezing themselves into a revealing outfit, getting coated in fake tan, and then shimmying around on national TV is practically their job description, so signing up for Strictly Come Dancing probably feels like just another day at the office.

However, for members of the public, the chance to enter the sequinned, glamorous world of televised ballroom dancing is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity – which is where The People's Strictly comes in.

Last year, viewers were asked to nominate someone who they thought deserved the chance to trip the light fantastic. Out of the thousands of names put forward, six inspirational people were ultimately chosen, all of whom have worked selflessly to improve the lives of others.

Over the next four weeks, we'll see them learn to dance and perform a routine, culminating in one of them being crowned a champion as part of Comic Relief, but in this opening edition we start by meeting three of the remarkable contestants.

Lance Corporal Cassidy Little is a 33-year-old former Royal Marine medic, who lost his right leg below the knee during a tour of Afghanistan in the summer of 2011. Despite his own horrific injuries, Cassidy attempted to tend to his colleagues on the ground after the attack, and is also credited with lifting the spirits of his fellow injured Marines during their intensive rehabilitation.

In 1999, Michael Pattie tragically lost his 13-year-old son Dave to meningitis, and since then has worked tirelessly to raise money for the Meningitis Research Foundation. His charity fundraisers have included Strictly-themed events in his native Dumfries, but now he's about to experience the real thing.

Meanwhile, Heather Parsons set up a charity to support intensive care patients and their families, inspired by her own experiences. It keeps her busy and she barely gets any time to herself – apart from on a Saturday evening when a certain pro-celebrity dance contest is on.

She says: "It's every little girl's dream to be in that sparkly outfit, being waltzed around the dance floor with a lovely partner and Strictly makes that dream a reality for a couple of hours on a Saturday evening."

Now, she's about to get to experience it for herself as she's told that she's been chosen to take part in a suitably flamboyant manner.

Once they've all got over the shock, it's time to start training with their professional partners. They need to work hard, as in the third episode they and fellow contestants Philip Barnett, Trishna Bharadia and Anna Kennedy OBE, will face their first challenge – showing Craig Revel-Horwood what they've learned so far.

He'll give them a few pointers to work on, but the good news is that he won't actually be judging them. Due to a prior commitment, he's going to be Australia, and his place on the panel will be taken by Strictly favourite Anton du Beke who will join Darcey Bussell, Bruno Tonioli and head judge Len Goodman.

Perhaps there are some parts of the Strictly experience that are best left to the celebs after all…

The People's Strictly for Comic Relief, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Broadchurch
ITV, 9pm
Meera Syal, aka Judge Sonia Sharma, jumped at the chance to star in series two of ITV's smash drama, but what was it about Chris Chibnall's scripts that attracted her? "He takes time," she explains. "It's the time and space in his scripts that he uses to delve into character. It's what drew people to watch The Killing. It's so much more about what are the effects of these events on people and to delve into their inner lives." This week it's the series finale, so fans can expect plenty of twists and turns for Alec (David Tennant) and Ellie (Olivia Colman) before those closing credits roll. Given the hit-and-miss nature of this second run, who knows whether Chibnall will deliver a third chapter?

NHS: £2billion a Week & Counting
Channel 4, 9pm
New series. A growing population, increased life expectancy, expensive medication and poor lifestyle choices are all contributing to a predicted £30billion-plus funding gap in just over 10 years' time. This interactive series challenges viewers to put themselves in the position of doctors, managers and other health professionals as they try to determine where to allocate scarce resources while facing complex dilemmas. The first programme considers liver transplants for alcoholics, cosmetic surgery and dementia.

TUESDAY
Mary Portas: Secret Shopper
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. The retail guru works with four businesses to help improve the quality of their customer service. At a family-run convenience store in Burnham, Buckinghamshire, she's shocked to see how staff behave when they don't know they're being filmed. Too much clowning around means out-of-date food is being left on the shelves, so Mary takes supervisor Dean and his team to a Michelin-starred restaurant to show them how to work well together. She also wants owner Keshu to rethink the products he stocks and give his savvy daughter Ash more responsibility.

WEDNESDAY
The Brit Awards 2015
ITV, 8pm
Ant and Dec host the star-studded ceremony live from London's O2, having last presented the show way back in 2001. This 35th edition features music by some of the biggest names in the industry, including Taylor Swift, Take That, Paloma Faith, and Madonna, performing on the Brits for the first time in 20 years as she promotes her new album Rebel Heart. Sam Smith leads the pack with five nominations, closely followed by Ed Sheeran and George Ezra, who each received four, and rock duo Royal Blood, who have three. They will all be battling it out for the coveted Album of the Year award alongside Alt-J, while Black Keys, First Aid Kit, Foo Fighters, the War on Drugs and 5 Seconds of Summer are all up for International Group.

Mary Portas, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY
The Great British Sewing Bee
BBC2, 8pm
As the series progresses and more contestants are eliminated, it's becoming harder and harder to spot any weak links – or to decide who's ahead of the pack. Each week we have our own ideas about who has the title, ahem, sewn up – but then the following episode changes everything. This week's challenges should weed out the sharpest needles, though, as the remaining amateur sewers are tested on their ability to add shape and structure to garments. They begin by creating a boned corset by sewing together 12 individual pieces of fabric, before breathing new life into a 1980s 'power' suit. Finally, they are challenged to make a traditional kilt from scratch, which proves one of their toughest tests to date.

FRIDAY
Bear Grylls: Mission Survive
ITV, 9pm
If you ever found yourself stuck in the middle of nowhere with only the searing sun and a few circling vultures for company, you'd do well to remember Bear Grylls' top tips for survival. Okay, the chances are slim that you'll ever find yourself in that set-up but these celebs have, and it's making for great entertainment. Tonight, tensions are high as the famous folk navigate their way through dense jungle down a ravine, before settling down to a meal of live scorpions. The next morning brings their first wash in three days, but they shouldn't let their guard down – Bear is about to explain the team's first big test: a descent of a 120ft waterfall. And soon enough, one more celeb will be eliminated…

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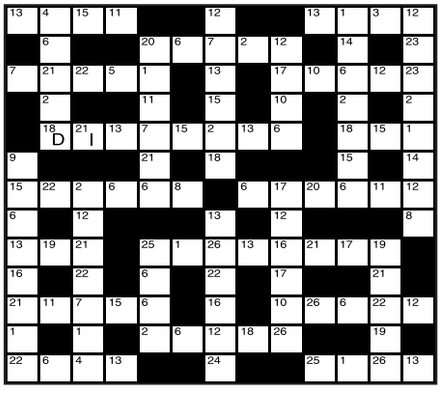
BRAIN GYM No.313

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



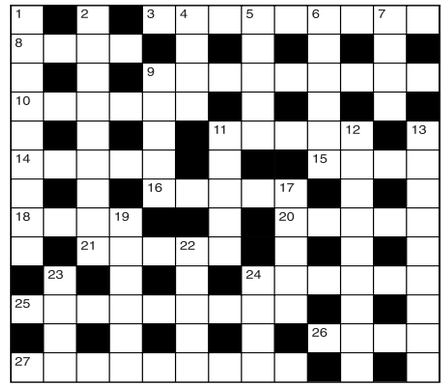
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18 D
6	19
7	20
8	21 I
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 G	2 T	3 U	4 S	5 P	6 X	7 K	8 C	9 B	10 O	11 R	12 H	13 Q
14 F	15 M	16 W	17 Z	18 I	19 D	20 A	21 E	22 V	23 J	24 N	25 L	26 Y

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Make a stop on the way? (9)
8. Bird associated with a crow (4)
9. Explain how to record one's vote? (3,6)
10. She's not so smart as her mate (6)
11. He gives the fellow an alternative (5)
14. A yachtsman, we hear, may be one who sneers (5)
15. Food crazy (4)
16. A place where waiters are forgotten? (5)
18. Cry from a small boat (4)
21. A rich mixture at the table (5)
24. Provides food and lodgings in castles (5)
25. Her sisters are not really her sisters (6)
25. Nobody pays an egg-producer around the end of October! (9)
26. He sold his birthright among the saucepans (4)
27. What he wants is no good to another (3-6)

Down

1. He's given unwarranted responsibility (9)
2. As a personal record, it's rather fragmentary (9)
4. English name, no French one (4)
5. Time to muse (5)
6. Copy-paper (6)
7. Its tower is inclined to attract tourists (4)
9. A gem looks right in a ring (5)
11. Maud's involved with a French writer (5)
12. Rush over to meet (3,6)
13. He must have space to work in (9)
17. A once-rough sea (5)
19. Colour that would run? (6)
22. They're in the front row when the game starts (5)
23. A visit from a local luminary (4)
24. Measure encountered over the East (4)

Quick Clues:

Across

3. Doctor (9)
8. Portent (4)
9. Heedless (9)
10. Leap (6)
11. Gloss (5)
14. Concede (5)
15. Entice (4)
16. Rub out (5)
18. Yearn (4)
20. Mistake (5)
21. Impel (5)
24. Gloomy (6)
25. Parody (9)
26. Responsibility (4)
27. Barren (9)

Down

1. Policeman (9)
2. Censure (9)
4. Suspend (4)
5. Metal-worker (5)
6. Club (6)
7. Adjoin (4)
9. Combine (5)
11. Form (5)
12. Food (9)
13. Callous (9)
17. Weird (5)
19. Grating (6)
22. Call (5)
23. Revolution (4)
24. Uninteresting (4)

Sudoku

			2	6		8		
	1				5		9	3
		9	8				7	4
					2		8	6
	6	2		4		1	5	
1	7							
9	5		7		3			8
3	4		9					
				1	4	9		

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	1	4	5	6	9	3	8	2
9	6	3	4	8	2	1	5	7
5	8	2	7	3	1	4	6	9
6	4	9	3	5	8	7	2	1
8	3	1	9	2	7	5	4	6
2	5	7	6	1	4	8	9	3
3	2	5	1	4	6	9	7	8
1	9	8	2	7	5	6	3	4
4	7	6	8	9	3	2	1	5

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Heir; 3 Apparent; 8 Nine; 9 Division; 11 Straightness; 13 Meddle; 14 Strafe; 17 Night-clothes; 20 Clinging; 21 Cain; 22 Signpost; 23 Stud. Down: 1 Handsome; 2 Ignored; 4 Plight; 5 Alienation; 6 Exits; 7 Tiny; 10 Fill the gap; 12 Reasoned; 15 Athwart; 16 Scents; 18 Icing; 19 Acts. QUICK - Across: 1 Cosy; 3 Proposal; 8 Near; 9 Everyone; 11 Estrangement; 13 Stroke; 14 Staple; 17 Indifference; 20 Invoices; 21 Magi; 22 Relegate; 23 Stay. Down: 1 Condense; 2 Shatter; 4 Ravage; 5 Peremptory; 6 Scorn; 7 Leek; 10 Backbiting; 12 Temerity; 15 Pendant; 16 Affect; 18 Novel; 19 Pier.

Quiz

1. Which German school of design was closed by the Nazis in 1933?
2. Who was Hero's lover?
3. Which ore is the chief source of Uranium?
4. Who wrote the novel Daniel Deronda?
5. Which country's bobsleigh team inspired the film Cool Runnings?
6. Which painter immortalised his native village of Cookham in Berkshire?
7. How is the house plant Chlorophytum elatum better known?
8. On which metallic element does verdigris form?
9. By what name are the Trucial States now known?
10. Who played young attorney Andy Beckett in Philadelphia?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Lord Justice Scott; 2 Blood pressure; 3 Velazquez; 4 St Lawrence; 5 Buckinghamshire; 6 Canada; 7 Barium; 8 Neil Armstrong; 9 Israel; 10 Charles Baudelaire.

Niner: STOCKYARD

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

15534 gives a tree,
62834 gives another tree,
8795 gives a flower.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Stylish converted barn in sought-after hamlet

A SUBSTANTIAL converted barn with versatile accommodation and four bedrooms The Swallows in Worcester Road, Harvington, Kidderminster lies in a highly regarded hamlet.

It is for sale through Andrew Grant at £775,000.

Having a wealth of exposed timbers and brickwork and full height windows, it has a vaulted reception hall and a formal sitting room and family room, both with stoves. In the extensive kitchen/breakfast room are cabinets with granite worktops and a two oven gas range cooker.

The formal dining room has French doors, a laundry, boot room and WC. Off a galleried landing is the master bedroom with oak flooring and a vaulted ceiling and en suite.

Contact Andrew Grant on 01527 579565 or visit www.andrew-grant.co.uk

Four-bed detached with £399,000 tag

A SUBSTANTIAL detached family residence, 46 Love Lane, Oldswinford, Stourbridge has great potential for further development and modernisation.

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It has an entrance hall, downstairs WC, a lounge with patio doors and access to separate dining room. The breakfast kitchen has modern, soft-close units and a central island. There is also an inner hallway, study and second living room, four bedrooms and master with dressing area and en suite.

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Well-presented detached with four bedrooms

AN extremely well presented unfurnished four-bedroomed detached property in Southern Close, Stourbridge is available to rent through Town & Country at £795 pcm.

In a popular residential location it has a reception hall, WC, lounge with a gas fire, dining room, extended kitchen, conservatory, utility, four good-sized bedrooms, bathroom with a shower over, gas central heating, double glazing and a rear garden with a garage.

Call 01384 444855 or visit www.townandcountrypropertyservices.co.uk

Semi-detached with the space for an extension

HAVING a side garden with space for an extension, subject to consent, a three-bedroomed semi in Holly Road, Oldbury is for sale through Braithwaites at £159,950 with no chain.

In need of modernisation and having gas central heating and majority double glazing it has a lounge/dining area with sliding patio doors out to the rear garden, a kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom with a separate WC, front gardens and a garage and driveway bordering a hedged frontage.

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DUDLEY

BARR STREET
FOR SALE £107,500
End Terrace Property with NO UPWARD CHAIN, comprising of: Lounge, Refitted Kitchen/Diner, Converted Cellar, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Refitted Bathroom, Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden.

WORDSLEY

SMALMAN CLOSE
FOR SALE £109,500
First Floor Modern Apartment comprising of: Entrance Hall, Lounge with open plan Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, En suite Shower, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Communal Grounds, Off Road Allocated Parking.

KINGSWINFORD

BACK ROAD
FOR SALE £189,950
Modern Town House comprises of: Hall, Cloakroom, Dining Room, Kitchen/Diner, Lounge & Bedroom One with En Suite, Two Further Bedrooms, Family Bathroom. Benefits from: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage.

WOLLASTON

LARKHILL ROAD
FOR SALE £144,950
Refurbished property finished to a very high standard.Comprises of: Entrance Hall, Ground Floor WC, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, GARAGE.

BRIERLEY HILL

HENZEL CROFT
FOR SALE £97,950
Modern Ground Floor Apartment close to local amenities and Merry Hill Comprising of; Spacious Lounge 20' 10" x 9' 10", Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Wet Room. Benefits include: Electric Heating, Double Glazing and Allocated Parking

UPPER GORNAL

HILL STREET
FOR SALE £73,950
Nicely Presented Leasehold First Floor One Bedroom Flat Comprising of Entrance hall, Lounge, Kitchen with built in cooker, Bedroom, Bathroom, Benefits include Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
FOR SALE £64,995
Well Presented Ground Floor Flat with NO UPWARD CHAIN comprising of: Lounge/Kitchen, Bedroom, Bathroom with shower. Benefits include Allocated Parking, Front Garden, Electric Heating, Double Glazing

KINGSWINFORD

COLDSTREAM DRIVE
FOR SALE £169,950
Semi Detached House comprising of: Hall, Lounge, Separate Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom. Benefits include: Part UPVC Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Driveway, Gated Car Port, Garage with work area.

PENSNETT

TANSEY GREEN ROAD
£610 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

STOURBRIDGE

AUDNAM
£750 pcm*
New Build Coach House, Entrance, Cloakroom, Good Sized Lounge/Diner, Breakfast Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, House Bathroom, Two Parking Spaces, Front & Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

WORDSLEY

WESTMINSTER ROAD
£650 pcm*
Detached House, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Downstairs Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Gardens on 3 Sides, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

BRAITHWAITE DRIVE
£575 pcm*
Semi Detached Property, Corner Position, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking.

BRIERLEY HILL

MADISON AVENUE
£695 pcm*
Modern Town House, Entrance Hall, WC, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, En Suite to Master, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Allocated Parking

TIVIDALE

BEATRICE WALK
£495 pcm*
End of Terrace, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

BARNETT LANE
£460 PCM*
Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

NETHERTON

SWAN STREET
£385 pcm*
Ground Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Cellar, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

BRIERLEY HILL

BISELL WAY
£395 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Allocated Parking

PENSNETT

COMMONSIDE
£425 pcm*
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

KINGSWINFORD

RAGEES ROAD
£350 pcm*
Ground Floor Studio Flat, Lounge/Bedroom, Kitchen, Shower Room, Off Road Parking, Communal Gardens, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

VERONICA ROAD
£750 pcm*
Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs Cloakroom, THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Single Garage, Off Road Parking, Gardens to Front & Rear, Part Furnished, NO DSS & NO PETS

DUDLEY

RUSSELLS HALL ROAD
£550 pcm*
Fully Refurbished Semi-Detached House, Entrance, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, UNFURNISHED

AMBLECOTE

KING WILLIAM STREET
£380 pcm*
SHARED ACCOMMODATION, Part Furnished, Communal Kitchen & Bathroom, Two Bedrooms (occupied), FIRST FLOOR: Two Bedrooms, (one occupied), Office, Communal Toilet with wash hand basin, RENT INCLUDES UTILITY BILLS

DUDLEY

ATTINGHAM DRIVE
£350 pcm*
First Floor Studio Apartment, Communal Entrance, Open Plan Kitchen, Lounge/Dining/Bedroom Area, Shower Room, Car Port, Communal Grounds, Double Glazing, Electric Heating

WORDSLEY

RENFREW CLOSE
£675 pcm*
Semi-Detached House, Large Lounge, Good Sized Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Parking for 1—2 Cars, Front & Rear Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished

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TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY SERVICES

GREENSFORGE LANE STOURTON

An elegant and impressive house set in a mature wooded setting offering both seclusion and privacy and being close to Stourbridge, having excellent road links and schools. The accommodation comprises of: Reception Hall, drawing room, library, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, games room, conservatory, cloakroom, cellars, master bedroom with en-suite, five further bedrooms and two bathrooms. The property further boasts integral garaging, driveway affording parking, beautiful terraced garden with mature woodland, all weather tennis court and outbuildings. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

£5000PCM DEPOSIT £10000 ● FEES

QUARRY PARK ROAD STOURBRIDGE

An impressive seven bedroom detached family home situated in a very desirable location and being close to Hagley village. The accommodation comprises of: Grand reception hall, sitting room, drawing room, dining room, breakfast kitchen, conservatory, utility, cloakroom, rear entrance hall, seven double bedrooms five of which have en suite facilities, family bathroom and a spacious first floor landing/seating area with door out to a balcony. The property further boasts paved parking for numerous vehicles, single garage with up and over garage doors and landscaped lawned gardens. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£2999PCM DEPOSIT £3099 ● FEES

OLD MILL FARM HOUSE BROMSGROVE ROAD

An Impressive Five Bedroom Property covering Three Storeys, being set in a Highly Sought After Rural Location. Accommodation comprises: Ground Floor - Three Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Downstairs WC and Lobby. First Floor - Bedrooms One and Two, both with En-Suites Shower Rooms Bedroom has En-Suite Bathroom. Second Floor - Bedrooms Four and Five and House Bathroom. In addition to a large Cellar there is a Double Garage, Storage Buildings and outside WC. The Property is approached by a gravelled driveway leading to the rear of the property where there is ample off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = F DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY SMOKERS: NO

£2000PCM DEPOSIT £2100 ● FEES

IBIS GARDENS KINGSWINFORD

An extremely well presented four bedroom detached property in this much sought after residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, WC, lounge, dining room, conservatory, fitted kitchen and play room. Master bedroom with en-suite, further 3 bedrooms and house bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden, block paved driveway affording off road parking and garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING =: D DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£895PCM DEPOSIT £995●FEES

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

NEW INSTRUCTION

BEECHER STREET COLLEY GATE

A Three bedroom detached Bungalow refurbished to a good standard and situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, rear blocked paved patio and lawn and driveway to the fore affording off road parking for two vehicles. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£675PCM DEPOSIT £775 ● FEES

SOUTHERN CLOSE KINGSWINFORD

An extremely well presented Four Bedroom Detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Reception Hall, Guest Cloakroom/WC.Lounge, separate Dining Room, extended fitted Kitchen, Conservatory and Utility room. There are four good sized bedrooms - the main having en-suite and Bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden and garage with storage room. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING =D DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

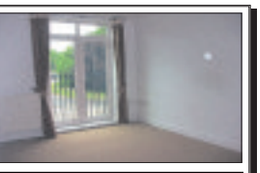
£795PCM DEPOSIT £895 ● FEES

NEW INSTRUCTION

NOTTINGHAM WAY BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented Three Bedroom detached property occupying a corner position and close to the Merry Hill Centre with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from having Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking and Garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO. PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£650PCM DEPOSIT £750 ● FEES



STEWPONY COURT STOURTON

An extremely well presented two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location, the accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite, second bedroom and bathroom. The property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£600PCM DEPOSIT £700 ● FEES

GOSPEL END ROAD SEDGLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom ground floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of Lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing, gas central heating and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS:MAY CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 ● FEES

NEW INSTRUCTION

BROMLEY LANE KINGSWINFORD

A recently refurbishment three bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall with staircase to first floor, landing, kitchen, lounge, three bedrooms, separate WC, bathroom, allocated parking and enclosed rear garden laid to lawn.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = G DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 ● FEES

NEW INSTRUCTION

KINGS MEWS KINGS COURT WOLLASTON

A New one bedroom first floor apartment situated in walking distance of Wollaston Village. The accommodation comprises of: Communal entrance hall, private entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and shower room. The property further benefits from having electric heating, double glazing and off road parking to the fore. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£425PCM DEPOSIT £525 ● FEES

HAGLEY ROAD HALESOWEN

A deceptively spacious three bedroom first floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Private Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and separate WC. The property further benefits from having night storage heating and double glazing.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKING: NO

£425PCM DEPOSIT £525 ● FEES

MOUNT ROAD STOURBRIDGE

A well presented one bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular residential location, accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and cellar. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking and garage. Viewing highly recommended. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO CHILDREN:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£420PCM DEPOSIT £520 ● FEES

NEW INSTRUCTION

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

A two bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance with staircase to first floor, private entrance hall with store cupboard, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating, allocated off road parking and bin store. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 ● FEES

HIGH STREET QUARRY BANK

A spacious one bedroom first floor apartment situated close to all amenities with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, fitted kitchen, double bedroom with shower cubicle and separate WC. The property further boasts electric storage heating, decked terrace affording lovely views and off road parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING =F DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£350PCM DEPOSIT £450 ●FEES

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NEW INSTRUCTION

MOUNT PLEASANT KINGSWINFORD

A well presented one bedroom ground floor flat situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, one bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£350PCM DEPOSIT £450 ●FEES

New Honda Civic Type R to be unveiled at Geneva

By David Banner

The all-new British built Honda Civic Type R – which will make its world premiere at the 2015 Geneva Motor Show – will feature a host of eye-catching design enhancements that have been heavily influenced by extensive aerodynamic development and testing, both on computer and in the wind tunnel. The result is a car with exceptional high speed stability and high levels of downforce.

The superior aerodynamic performance helps make the most of the Civic Type R's 2.0-litre direct injection VTec Turbo engine, enabling the car to achieve a top speed of 270km/h (167mph), unrivalled amongst its front wheel-drive competitors.

A new, almost completely flat underside aids airflow under the vehicle and combines with a rear diffuser to optimise downforce – effectively 'sucking' the car onto the road. A bespoke rear wing gives the car enhanced visual presence and delivers powerful additional downforce, thanks notably to the structure of its airfoil section.

A wide front splitter and deep side skirts also manage airflow and reduce lift, while the front bumper has been shaped specifically to inhibit air turbulence around the front wheels, cutting drag and enhancing high-speed stability.

To help the driver manage the Type R's prodigious power, the car is equipped with a high performance Brembo brake package, developed specifically for the car. At the front, four-piston calipers apply braking force to 350mm drilled discs. New 19in alloy wheels, unique to the Type R, complement the visual changes, filling the wheel arches and accommodating the larger brakes.

Focus

Heat management was another major focus for the design team, influencing several prominent external design modifications. Enlarged upper and lower grilles in the front bumper, vents above the wheels on the front quarter panels and vents at the trailing edges of the front wheel arches combine to provide greater cooling and ventilation for the high-output engine.

Leon Brannan, head of car, Honda (UK) said: "We've already seen huge customer interest for this much anticipated and unique car with over 100 orders already in the bank. With the release of these new technical details I think we can expect many more."

The Civic Type R will be unveiled at Geneva Motor Show in Championship White – a colour shared with successive generations of iconic Type R vehicles.

Meanwhile Honda's new entry into Europe's fast-growing small SUV segment – The HR-V – will be on our roads later this year.

The unique exterior design of the new HR-V prototype echoes that of a coupé, with sharp, dynamic lines that link the sleek upper body with the stable and planted lower body. This coupé-esque elegance is achieved without compromising the interior practicality of the car.

The HR-V features a centre fuel tank location to create one of the most spacious and adaptable small SUV cabins. Honda Magic Seats make use of this versatility by enabling a wide range of seating configurations, with the ability to fold the second row seats completely flat for added cargo space.

The HR-V will go on sale in the UK in the summer.#

Mr Leon Brannan said: "The HR-V is a very welcome addition to our current model line-up, it is a very popular and growing market segment that appeals to both retail and corporate customers."

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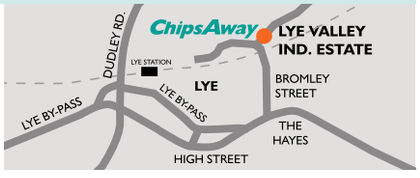

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DRIVETIME

Is it time to make the switch?

Millions of drivers could be missing out on savings of around £860 per year in fuel and tax because myths still exist about running electric and plug-in hybrid cars.

The findings are the result of new research released today by Go Ultra Low, a joint initiative by the Government and the UK automotive industry.

According to the research, around 11.5 million motorists could benefit from the lowest cost, tax-free motoring by switching to pure electric vehicles, because in a typical year they don't drive further than 80 miles in a single trip.

Millions more could benefit from other ULEVs, which can travel between 150 and 700 miles between charges thanks to range-boosting petrol and diesel assistance.

The Go Ultra Low research shows that 70 percent of car owners are planning to change their car within the next four years, while three in ten say they have considered purchasing a ULEV. Two thirds of motorists under the age of 24 have considered a ULEV compared to just a quarter of drivers over 55.

The survey also reveals that the majority of motorists still don't fully understand how electrically-powered vehicles work and believe outdated myths across a number of topics, from range and charging to cost and practicality.

The survey discovered that a quarter of motorists misunderstand the range capabilities of ULEVs, with 16 percent believing electric vehicles are unable to travel 50 miles without recharging.

Yet the research also shows that more than a third of drivers said the furthest they drove in a single journey during 2014 was 80 miles or less.

With pure-electric vehicles able to travel up to 100 miles on a single charge and other plug-in ULEVs boasting up to 700 miles' range, the survey's authors claim electrically-powered cars are a viable, low-cost option for millions of motorists.

Go Ultra Low is a campaign to help motorists understand the benefits, cost savings and capabilities of the raft of new ultra-low emission vehicles on the market.

The collaborative campaign is the first of its kind, bringing together the Department for Transport, the Office for Low Emission Vehicles, SMMT and a consortium of leading car manufacturers: Audi, BMW, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Renault, Toyota, and Volkswagen.

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VAUXHALL

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Available at participating retailers only. Conditional Sale. Offers available on orders or registrations made by 31st March 2015. Pictures for illustration purposes only. *Offer subject to availability at participating Retailers only. Personal Contract Purchase. Finance subject to status, Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Finance by Vauxhall Finance, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. 24-36 month term available. At the end of the agreement there are three options: i) Retain the vehicle: Pay the optional final payment to own the vehicle, ii) Return the vehicle, or iii) Replace: Part Exchange the vehicle, where equity is available. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Subject to our fair wear and tear terms and conditions. †Free insurance Terms and Conditions-First year insurance offer available on ADAM models only, excluding ADAM GRAND SLAM. All drivers must have held a valid full UK licence for a minimum of 1 year. All policies are underwritten by Ageas Insurance Ltd. Ask for full terms and conditions. Offer available on orders or registrations between 9 February and 6 April 2015.

New SR7s now available

By Sharon Walters

New, top-value SR7 versions of four favourite Kia models are available across the company's dealer network.

Every SR7 has a higher specification than the 2014 VR7 special-edition models.

LED daytime running lights, cornering lights, front foglights, automatic headlight control, privacy glass, UV-reducing solar glass, dual-zone automatic air conditioning and roof rails are the highlights of the equipment additions, depending on model. There are also new alloy wheels and colour options.

This is just the start of a list of new models, facelifts and product enhancements during 2015, spearheaded by a new Sorento. There will be a new grade '4' version of the Carens; facelifts for the Rio and Venga; an Alpine Edition Sportage and further options with the Soul Mixx and Maxx.

The Rio and Venga SR7 will be based on the respective facelifted models now in UK showrooms. The Rio SR7 is available as a three- or five-door with an 84bhp, 1.25-litre petrol engine, or as a five-door with a 1.1-litre diesel featuring Kia's ISG stop/start system. In each case the SR7 sits between the normal '1 Air' and '2' grades in the line-up.

The Rio SR7 features automatic headlight control, privacy glass on the rear windows and tailgate and UV-reducing solar glass in addition to the highlights from last year's VR7 of air conditioning, reversing sensors, a leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshifter, Bluetooth, USB and AUX ports, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors and electric windows (all four on five-door versions). It has the same premium black cloth upholstery fitted to the latest '2' and '3' trim grades, and bespoke 15in alloy wheels.

The Venga SR7 is available with 89bhp 1.4-litre petrol and diesel engines. ISG is fitted to the petrol unit. The SR7 sits between '1 Air' and '2' trim grades and has automatic headlight control and privacy glass on the rear windows and tailgate in addition to the VR7 key features of air conditioning, reversing sensors, Bluetooth, USB and AUX ports, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors and electric windows.

Striking

The upholstery is the striking new Houndstooth cloth with red stitching from the facelifted Venga '1' and '1 Air', with the stitching echoed in the leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshifter. The stylish 16in alloy wheels are the same as those fitted to Venga '2', '3' and '4' grades, while the one solid paint option (Arctic White) and three metallics (Silver Storm, Phantom Black and Infra Red) are those offered with the latest Venga '1' and '1 Air'.

The new pro-cee'd SR7 slots just below the regular 'S' grade, while the cee'd and cee'd Sportswagon SR7 fit between regular tiers '1' and '2'. All three body styles are available with a 98bhp, 1.4-litre petrol engine, while the five-door cee'd also offers an 89bhp, 1.4-litre diesel.

Every version has LED daytime running lights, cornering lights, front foglights, automatic headlight control and privacy glass on the rear windows and tailgate which were not available on the 2014 VR7. Key features carried over include air conditioning, reversing sensors, a leather-trimmed steering wheel and gearshifter, Bluetooth, USB and AUX ports, electrically-adjustable heated door mirrors and electric windows (all four on five-door versions). The upholstery is black Abstract, also found on the level '1' cee'd and Sportswagon, while the double-five-spoke 16in alloy wheels replicate those on the cee'd '2' and '3'.

The Carens SR7 offers buyers the choice of two direct-injection engines – the 1.6-litre GDi petrol unit or the 1.7-litre CRDi diesel. Both are fitted with ISG to maximise fuel economy and minimise CO2 emissions. This brings the CO2 output of the SR7 1.6 GDi down to 120g/km – the lowest in the Carens range.

Standard premium features include LED daytime running lights, front foglights, automatic headlight control, 16in alloy wheels, privacy glass on the rear windows and tailgate, premium cloth seats, reversing sensors, dual automatic air conditioning and roof rails.

The new grade '4' version of the Carens, powered by the 134bhp, 1.7-litre CRDi engine paired with either a six-speed manual or six-speed automatic transmission, has been added at the top of the range to replace the former '3 Sat Nav' model.

'This is just the start of a list of new models, facelifts and product enhancements during 2015, spearheaded by a new Sorento'

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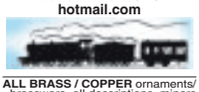

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

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AUDI A3, 2008, 157,000 miles, black, sportsline, 2 owners. Full service history. £5,000 ono. 07507 336972.

BMW 325i SPORT SALOON
2004, Auto, 23,330 miles, estoril blue, one owner from new, full main dealer service history, 18ins alloys, unmarked wheels, four michelin tyres, black leather seats, garaged, recently fulll BMW Service, superb condition,
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BMW Z3 red, excellent condition, full MoT, one owner, 45,000 miles, any trial, £4,500 offers. 01952 222328.

FORD FUSION 3 2005, silver, 5 door, 63,000 miles, MoT Oct 15, excellent condition. £1,650 ono. 01902 258138 / 07446 072217.

FORD MONDEO 2.0 DIESEL AUTO 10 reg, silver, full history, 100K, good condition £6,495 ono. 07733 272900.

HONDA JAZZ 1.4, 2010, red, semi automatic, 15,400 miles, 12 months MoT, £5,500. 07814 499613.

HYUNDAI AMICA, 2006, 28,000 miles, silver, MoT Nov 2015, petrol, 1.1L, 5 door, fsh, 2 owners. £1,800. 07929 617066.

JAGUAR XTYPE SE, 06, 2.0 diesel, MoT, extras, cream leather, immaculate, £3,500. 07867 685569.

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MERCEDES KOMPRESSOR C200 02 plate, good condition, £2,150 ono. 07944 254085 / 01902 560517 after 6pm.

MINI COOPER S
04, 39k, red, top spec, heated seats, e/w, sensors, a/c, all leather, fsh, very good condition.
£4,500.
07794 572467.

SEAT ALTEA, 2007, 1.6, 47k miles, black, c/l, pas, abs, MoT Sept 2015, petrol, very good condition, must be viewed, £3,200 ono. 07469 196773.

TOYOTA YARIS 5-dr, 12 plate, 1.3, very good condition, 9,017 miles,deep aqua, £7,700. 07954 181046.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 Exclusive, 60 plate, 5-dr, grey metallic, petrol, 56,000 miles, good condition. £6,000. 07824 104753.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2
2004, 1.2i Design, 5 door, 21,000 miles, MoT October 2015, one owner, silver, fsh, metallic paint, central locking, alloys, alarm.
£2,100 ono.
01384 833524.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.3 CDTi, Ecoflex, 2009, full MoT, Vauxhall SH, 50mpg, £30 tax, excellent throughout, £4,150. 01746 762598.

VW JETTA SE, 1.4TSi, 160bhp, DSG auto, 10 reg, 5-dr, metallic grey, 33k miles, excellent condition, £6,750 ono. 01902 326270.

cars under £1500

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CITROEN C5, 52 Reg., MoT'd. £300. 01902 836219.

FORD KA 2001, MoT December, 70,000 miles, very clean for year. £495. Call 07984 297114.

FORD KA, 2007, 54,000 miles, yellow, air bag, fsh, MoT, excellent condition, £950 ono. 01902 764641.

FORD MONDEO 2.0LX
1999, 46,640 miles, Auto, Silver, abs, EW, EM, ai bag, AC, alarm, MoT, CL, Alloys, CD/radio, low suspension, remap, pas, spoiler
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MITSUBISHI MIRAGE 1.2, 2004, sh, MoT, Alloys, power steering. Excellent condition, £650. 01384 440258.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4. 3-door, 2004 (04). £1,475 o.n.o. Telephone 07444 072591.

PEUGEOT 307 2.0, 04, 10 months MoT, full electrics, half leather interior, new winter service and battery, £825 ono. 01543 876283.

PEUGEOT 307. 72,500 miles, MoT till Aug. 02 plate, alloy wheels, good runner. £875. 07531 819599.

RENAULT ESPACE 7 seater, 85k miles, full MoT, one owner from new, X reg, immaculate, £1,490. 07975 839914. 01902 689400.

ROVER 216SLI, 1994, 52,566 miles, silver grey, 12 months MoT, auto, central locking, 5 door, hatchback, 1600cc, £600 ono. 01384 873681.

ROVER 45 IMPRESSION, 2003, 81,000 Miles, red, long MoT, 1.4, alloys, £600 ono. 07711 120540.

SUZUKI ALTO GL, 03 reg, black, 41,106 miles, MoT July £30 a year tax, new parts fitted, £850 ono. Telephone 07757 785714.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.9 SXi CDTi Diesel, 2004, black, e/w, radio, cd, MoT'd. service history, alloys. £1,350. 07954 419531.

VOLVO S40 SPORT, 53 plate, 1800cc, petrol, manual, silver, black leather, MoT, very good condition, £1,450 ono. 07791 364190.

commercial vehicles

TRANSIT VAN 2007, MoT April, runs, needs attention. For details 07989 109063.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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10 Personals

personal

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full time - general

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Pearce in bumper night of boxing

THE bumper boxing show, in association with the Fight Factory, takes place at The Chase Leisure Centre on Saturday February 28.

Stafford's undefeated fighter, Grant Cunningham, tops the bill as he steps down to middleweight to take on Damon Jones in an English Middleweight Title Eliminator.

"I'm feeling fit and sharp and ready to go," Cunningham said. "It's a big night of boxing."

Walsall's Luke Paddock is also in action as he makes a maiden defence of his Midlands Area Light Welterweight Title when he takes on Newark's Fergus Taylor. Paddock has a perfect nine-fight record whilst Taylor has won seven of his opening nine professional contests, losing just once.

Stourbridge's former Midlands Area Welterweight King, Steven Pearce, is also in action as he steps in with tough Latvian, Eduards Krauklis, for his first outing of 2015

The show takes place at Chase Leisure Centre, Stafford Road, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 4AL. Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 Ringside, are available, call 01543 504065

Chess club stay in the promotion running

Chess

THIS week Stourbridge Chess Club(SCC) played four matches over two nights, two on Tuesday away and two on Wednesday at home.

On Tuesday the Birmingham Division 3 team travelled to Mutual Circle. Steve Jukes fought an honourable draw on board one, while Julie Wilson scraped the same outcome on three.

Dave Scriven played a kamikaze line on two and overpowered his opponent who fell for the opening trap.

John Foxall and Jeremy Humphreys also secured good wins, while Eric Horwill adjourned in a very strong position. SCC were 4-1 up with one to go and no losses.

The Dudley Division 3 team played at Halesowen. Sam Bradley drew on top board while Chris Williamson lost on board two.

In a great night for the young Arkells, Charlie-Ann drew with Mark Vile on board four and Dan did even better, beating the veteran Tony Taylor to make the result 2-2.

On Wednesday SCC hosted two Birmingham league matches. Division 1 against Bushbury and Division 5 against Westminster. Stourbridge had all five of their top players in the D1 match with Tony Shaw filling in as reserve. Bushbury arrived with a reserve of their own on board six.

Grandmaster Keith Arkell won for Stourbridge on board one while the rest of the team all drew so SCC won the match.

In this division the champions are almost confirmed, as are the runners-up. The two relegation places also appear assigned. Of the other nine teams, there was just one point difference. With this win SCC leap to third in the table, one point ahead of the others.

The Birmingham Division 5 team hosted Westminster for what should have been a relatively straightforward win.

Martin Berridge won material in the opening and was the first to finish with a win. The next result was a draw on board one for Ron Evans. Captain Steve Alcock also won, so looking good at 2.5-0.5. Sam Bradley misjudged a knight sacrifice for two pawns and lost.

The remaining two games are adjourned with both Stourbridge players ahead, so SCC should win the match.

When the win is confirmed SCC will be second in Division 5, one point ahead of the only other promotion challengers.

Sailing club on awards shortlist

HIMLEY Hall Sailing Club, near Dudley, has been officially recognised as amongst Britain's best after being shortlisted for the prestigious RYA Club of the Year Award 2015.

The RYA, sailing's national governing body, presents the annual award in recognition of how well clubs promote the sport of sailing, encourage people onto the water and make their activities varied and available to their community.

And after a landmark year for Himley Hall, the club has made the final shortlist of five for the first time, alongside clubs from Norfolk, Wales, Essex and Hertfordshire.

The winner of the RYA Club of the Year Award 2015 will be revealed by RYA CEO Sarah Treseder at the RYA Suzuki Dinghy Show at Alexandra Palace, London on Saturday February 28.

Himley Hall club commodore, Tony Sutton, believes the nomination is a nod to the power of volunteers.

He said: "We're only a small club with around 120 regulars sailing over the course of the season, but we reckon over 90 per cent of members, including our juniors, helped the club in some way during 2014."

Glassboys let off by added time equaliser

Stourbridge 1 Trafford 1

FRUSTRATION, was the word Gary Hackett used to sum up Saturday's last-gasp draw against lowly Trafford – and Stourbridge's season.

Kayelden Brown's equaliser two minutes into injury-time gave the Glassboys a point and denied their relegation-battling visitors only their second win in 19 outings.

Football

A draw was the least Stourbridge deserved but it left them 11th in the Evo-Stik Northern Premier table and looking increasingly likely to miss out on a play-off spot.

Stourbridge have been so close to promotion in the last two seasons but having been switched to the Northern Premier this has been a far tougher campaign and they have just lacked a flash of inspiration, a consistent marksman and momentum has stuttered.

"We have lacked a little bit of a spark all season," admitted Hackett. "That's why our results have been erratic.

"It's been frustrating and frustration very much sums up Saturday's performance.

"Our first-half performance wasn't good enough and then we gifted Trafford a ridiculously soft goal."

"They defended well, and their keeper had a charmed life but we didn't give up. We created chances and we were finally rewarded."

Stourbridge huffed and puffed in the first half against Trafford, with Drew Canavan going closest with a fourth-minute shot which hit the outside of the post.

Trafford then stunned the hosts to take the lead 25 seconds into the second period when Stourbridge keeper Dean Coleman failed to deal with a punt forward, defender Tyrone Williams stuck out a leg to clear and the ball fell straight to Andy Smart struck following a mix-up.

Stourbridge finally rallied in the last half an hour but it seemed Trafford keeper Tom Read was unbeatable as he flung out a hand to stop denied Luke Benbow's volley, then parried a , Junior Smikle shot and dived at the feet of Will Richards.

However, two minutes into stoppage time, he was finally beaten when. Despite being bundled to the ground, Richards managed to pass to Chris Knight on the right wing and Brown timed his run perfectly to slotted home from six yards for his 11th goal of the season.

"Not taking our chances has been the tale of our season," said Hackett. "But Knighty put in a great cross and fair play to Kayelden for doing you expect of a centre-forward to close in the ball at the far post."

Heathens motoring with new sponsorship

Motor Market's Dean and Adam Bridge with Cradley boss Will Pottinger.
Picture Jonathan Hipkiss

CRADLEY have a new team sponsorship deal to take the club to Perry Barr.

The reigning City Gearboxes National League champions, who have switched home meetings from Wolverhampton to Birmingham, are keeping it local with main sponsors Motor Market stepping up from their team partnership role of the last two couple of seasons.

Owned by brothers Dean and Adam Bridge who are massive Heathens fans, Motor Market have their showroom on Newtown Lane in Cradley Heath overlooking the original Dudley Wood Stadium site.

Heathens Chairman Nigel Pearson said: "We are delighted to welcome Motor Market back for 2015 and we are truly thrilled that they are coming with us to Perry Barr as main team sponsors."

The Heathens season launch night on Wednesday March 11 at Brierley Hill's Copthorne Hotel. Admission is £5 and tickets are selling well with all profits going to the riders.

Tickets are available from the club website cradleyheathens.co or from the club shop at Printworx, High Street, Quarry Bank.

Danny gets the winner for Tividale

Tividale 1 Kidsgrove 0

IN their first home game since New Year's Day, Tividale battled their way to Evo-Stik First Division South points against an improving Kidsgrove Athletic.

Tividale should have gone ahead after nine minutes when Jordan Archer was upended by Kidsgrove's Dave McPherson with the referee pointing to the spot.

Zach Foster stepped up to take the penalty but dragged the ball wide of the right hand post.

Andy Kinsey had the first effort on target in the second half. Tiv's skipper Richard Huckfield then headed over a Foster corner.

But the hosts grabbed the winner five minutes later throughDanny Ashton.

Duo keep Gornal in running

Casuals 2 Gornal 5

TWO goals apiece from Thomas Piggot and Dreniz Bala ended Wolverhampton Casuals unbeaten West Midlands League Premier Division run and kept Gornal's promotion hopes alive.

Gornal opened the scoring with Piggott in the 20th minute.

Casuals hit back with Dan Westwood equalising in the 45th minute.

Gornal regained the lead with Piggott finishing off some good work from substitute James Baldwin in the 58th minute. Bala added a third in the 65th minute. Westwood put the home side back in the game. Liam Hickman made it 2-4. Bala claimed his second and Gornal's 5th in the 80th minute.

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Then there's Stortorget, the city's oldest square, flanked by the more recent Nobel museum, which celebrates the illustrious prize, recipients and founder.

Nearby is Sweden's Royal Palace, the king's official residence, with royal apartments, historic rooms and museums including the treasury's crown jewels to explore and admire.

The journey from Stockholm to Copenhagen is made by high speed train crossing the awesome sea bridge and tunnel – an absolute engineering masterpiece.

The capital is best known for two iconic landmarks, the Carlsberg Brewery and the Little Mermaid – the statue inspired by Hans Christian Andersen. Other sights include the Houses of Parliament, the Christiansborg and the Tivoli pleasure gardens famous for street entertainers and music concerts.

Exploring further afield there's historic Roskilde, the country's medieval capital with its cathedral, one of the world's few brick built gothic structures and the extraordinary Viking museum which showcases five superbly preserved 11th century ships, plus authentic reconstructions of Viking skills.

Frederiksborg Slot, a majestic Renaissance palace, is a Nordic Versailles, surrounded by a stately lake and set in glorious manicured baroque and romantic English-style gardens. A visit to this palace, now a national museum, is a fitting end to this Scandinavian experience.

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Yeltz get a point in scoreless match-up

Workington 0 Halesowen 0

HALESOWEN secured a valuable point in Cumbria and in the process stopped Workington extending their winning home sequence to nine in a row.

A combination of poor finishing good luck and a great display by goalkeeper Matt Sargeant made sure The Yeltz didn't make the return journey down the M6 empty-handed.

Connor Tinnion had three good attempts on goal, two saved by Sargeant and one hitting the woodwork.

Scott Allison put a shot just wide for Workington in the second half and then Gareth Arnison headed past the post from Alex Newby's cross.

The best chance, though, fell to Workington substitute Alex Salmon whose 25-yard free-kick was on target for the top corner until Sargeant pulled off a stunning save.

Tom Tonks had two half-chances for Halesowen while Aaron Lloyd came on late for his debut, but Halesowen will be happy with a point which moves them up to eighth in the table.

Halesowen: Sargeant, Green, Griffiths, Forde (Mackenzie, 45) Hull, Tilt, Turner, Tonks Christie (Lloyd, 80), Haseley (Daniels, 80), Bragoli. **Subs not used:** Jones, Pearson.

Smith runs in the sun

WITH very little on the calendar this week runners were forced to cast their net a little further afield.

Few could have travelled further than Phil Smith who lined up at the start of the Barcelona Half Marathon, the lure of the Catalan capital and warmer weather being enough to tempt the Dudley Kingswinford athlete from his usual Black Country haunts to race over the 13.1 mile distance.

In a high quality race where nine of the first 10 places were filled by East Africans, or at least former East Africans, the winner Tadesse Abraham representing Switzerland, clocked 1hr42sec.

Only five seconds covered the first three places and the winner of the women's race, Florence Kiplagat, clocked 1.05.09.

Smith came home in 1.38.45 in 4,018th of 12,500.

Tividale in semi after sudden death goal

Walsall Senior Cup Quarter Final
Romulus FC 0 Tividale FC 0 (aet)
Tividale win 5-4 on pens

Football

TIVIDALE will play either Bolehall Swifts or Chasetown in the Semi-Final of the Walsall Senior Cup after overcoming a spirited Romulus side on penalties on their 3G pitch at Coles Lane.

After a string of games on heavy pitches Tividale struggled to get to grips with the home side's slick passing on the artificial surface and they had the best of the first half.

The first chance on goal fell to Romulus forward Jed Davies but his effort was comfortably saved by Paul Evans making his debut in the Tividale goal.

Tividale did come even closer on 22 minutes when from a free kick on the edge of the box Zach Foster hit the crossbar.

But it was Romulus who were doing the majority of the running and the tricky Edwin Akenkorah just failed to latch onto a long ball on 30 minutes as Evans was alert and quick off his line to collect the ball. On the hour the visitors made a couple of changes bringing on Danny Ashton and Nigel Penney for Ryan Winwood and Mitchell Botfield.

With Ashton going into the right back role and pushing Chris Field into the middle of the park while Penney played wide right.

As the game moved into extra time Tividale's Field was now the holding player in the middle of the park while Leigh Downing was playing a more advanced role and it was his clever through ball that put Romulus defender Liam Francis under pressure but Karl Edwards failed to cash in. During the penalties Romulus' Luke Keen scored first, Downing made it 1-1. Mark Branch put Romulus 2-1 up; Edwards made it 2-2. Greg Downes made it 3-2 and Danny Ashton levelled it at 3-3. Barry Fitzharris then blazed his effort over and Andy Parsons put Tividale in the driving seat at 3-4. Ahenkorah had to score to keep Romulus in and he made no mistake 4-4. So it was down to Dave Bellis to see Tividale through but he dragged his effort wide to take it to sudden death. Jackson blazed over but Penney made no mistake and Tividale go through.

STOCKPORT ARE HIT FOR SEVEN

Stockport 19 Stourbridge 48

STOCKPORT may lie in National 2 North's basement slot, but they proved difficult opponents.

Stour worked hard in defence and played the phases in attack, dominating the collision area to create quality front-foot ball. This bonus point victory leaves them with a cushion.

Rugby

Their position is unlikely to be eroded by the sides in the drop zone, despite a run-in that includes games against five of the league's top seven sides.

Stockport opting to run backfired when a ball carrier was isolated, the penalty was kicked to the corner and after a set of drives Toby Handley sneaked over for a try.

The hosts hit back quickly. A short drive from hooker Oli Longmore was rewarded with a try.

Slotted

Ben Barkley was cynically taken out, home full-back Jon Edwards receiving a yellow card. Ryan slotted the kick at goal.

Mark George was penalised at the game's first scrum the hosts kicked for the corner, No.8 Simon Greene barging through some flimsy defence to take the lead.

A promising Stockport break was pulled back for a forward pass, Stour started to play the phases and Ryan was brought down inches short of the try line, Stef Shillingford following up to blast through through defenders.

A Drew Harper lineout steal set up an attack that saw Lawrenson cross the try line but referee Matt Turvey spotted an obstruction.

Stockport ran it back but were turned over at the tackle, Ryan hoisted a speculative cross field punt for winger Stef Cooksammy who shrugged off several tackle attempts to score.

A worked lineout play allowed Brookes to make big inroads into the defences before Shillingford bounced a defender to cross for his second try.

Stour's depleted pack forced a turnover and a blatant obstruction on Gary Dipple allowed Ryan to clear.A defender stuck his hands in the ruck, Ryan ran the penalty and drives up the centre set up another short-range try for George. Back came Stockport, and despite some dogged defensive work they broke their second half duck as Green was worked through a gap.

Chasing a bonus point Stockport tried to run from deep but a pass was intercepted by replacement hooker Dale Garner.

He was hauled down just short but Dipple scored, Ryan converted.

Stourbridge's No.8 Drew Harper leads another attack against Stockport

Mongan through on a bye

JERRY Mongan will come into the national stages of the England Junior championships fresh after walking over the area final through a bye, writes Craig Birch.

Mongan, from Priory Park in Dudley, picked up a West Midlands winner's vest without boxing as there was no opponent for him at 57kg.

The England international and Schoolboys champion is entered in the boxers born in 2000 only category, as is club-mate Blake Clarke at 44kg and Brad Willets at 63kg.

Clarke eased through unanimously while Willets had to battle to come through a split decision to make it a hat-trick of West Midlands champions for the club.

Trainer Warren Davies said: "Jerry has done well for himself but we are taking nothing for granted, past titles mean nothing now and this is a different test.

"We have took him up a weight and he probably could have gone higher, he walks around at 60kg but he managed to get down to 57kg quite comfortably in the end. Blake is going to be a really good fighter."

Dove rescues Lockmen point

Willenhall 1 Dudley Town 1

SUBSTITUTE Matt Dove rescued a point for Willenhall in their West Midlands Premier clash against Dudley Town.

The Robins went ahead on 54 minutes through Rion Francis Mills.

But 11 minutes from time Dove arrived to hook a great finish over the keeper.

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